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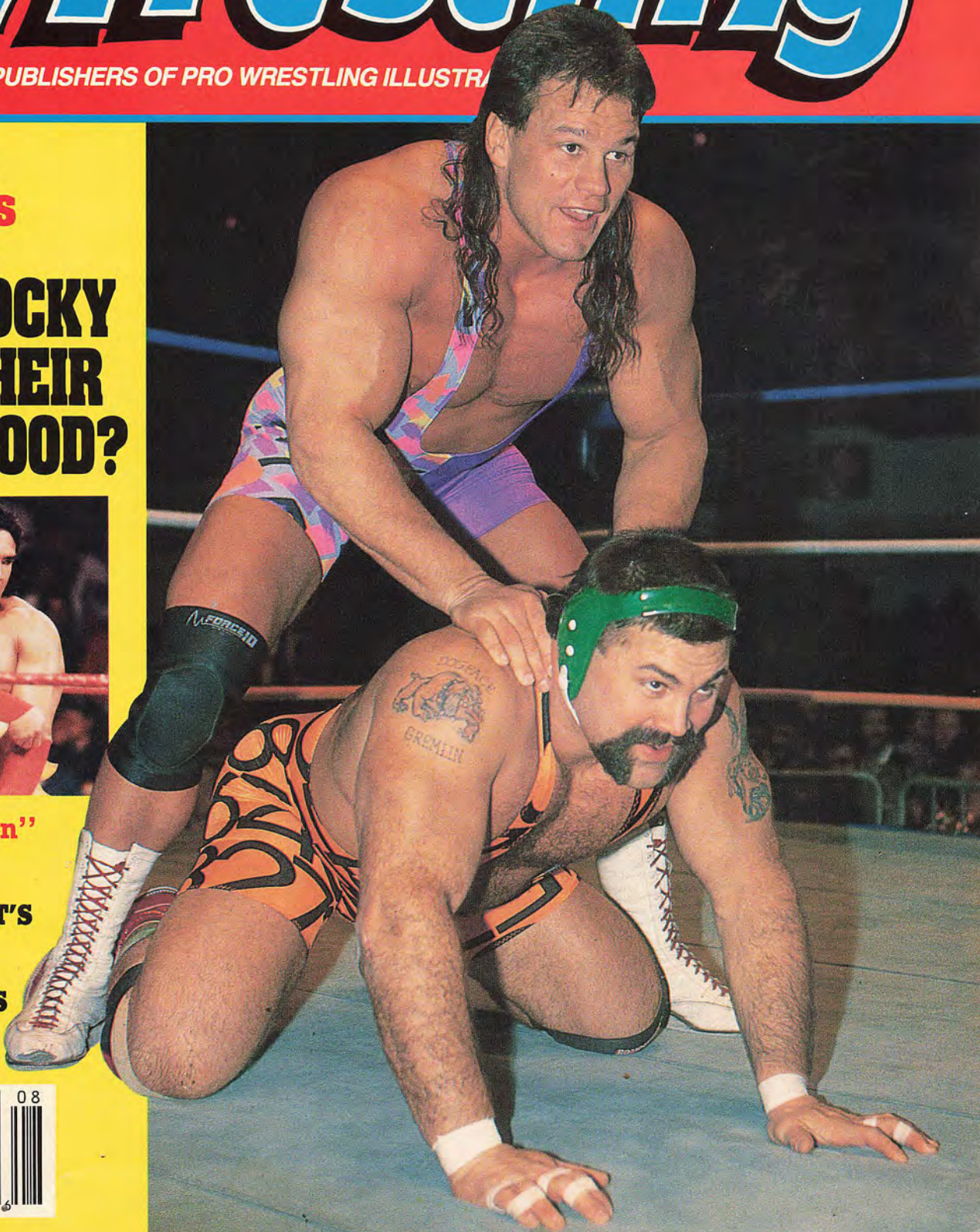
# Wrestling

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STEINERS  
GETTING  
TOO COCKY  
FOR THEIR  
OWN GOOD?**



**"The Dragon"  
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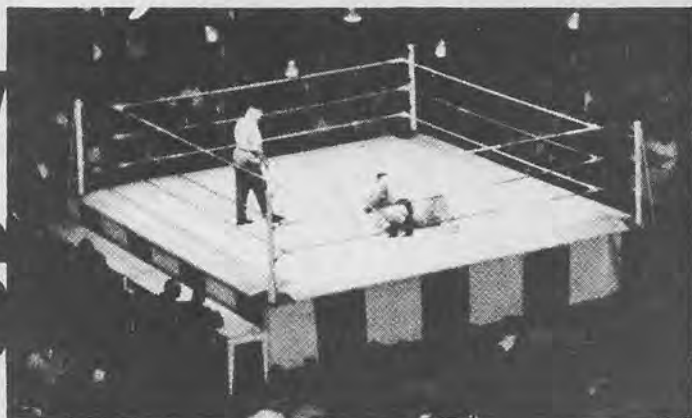
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# SINCERELY YOURS



## NO RESPECT

The most sickening match at WrestleMania VII had to be Randy Savage vs. The Ultimate Warrior, because after the Warrior beat Savage, he paraded around the ring and then stepped on the fallen "Macho King." You would think Warrior would have enough respect for his opponent to at least help Savage up, or even shake his hand.

Warrior, I've lost all respect for you because of what you did. I hope this letter really sinks into your big head and makes you realize what you did.

Good luck, "Macho King," wherever you may go.

BRIAN ARNOLD  
Florence, NJ



Randy Savage (with Elizabeth) should have been accorded more respect by The Ultimate Warrior at their retirement match, says reader Brian Arnold.

## TOUGH QUESTIONS

I just finished reading Bob Smith's interview with Nikita Koloff ("I'm Back To Reclaim What's Rightfully Mine!" June 1991) and cannot help but wonder why two tough questions were never asked.

The turning point in Nikita's career was the automobile accident that injured Magnum T.A. After a series of U.S. title matches against Magnum, Nikita's respect for him ran so deep that he telephoned Dusty Rhodes following the accident and offered to take Magnum's place in an upcoming match against the Horsemen. That night, The Superpowers were born.

Subsequently, upon receiving the 1987 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Inspirational Wrestler of the Year award, Nikita told the world the award was shared with Magnum because Mag-

num's courage had so inspired him. The question is: Do Magnum and the ideals he stands for still inspire Nikita? Smith never asked.

Second, though admittedly a painful subject to broach, how much has the death of Nikita's wife, Mandy, affected him?

By failing to ask the tough questions, Smith missed the possible motive for the drastic change in Nikita's attitude.

Redeem yourselves. Put Magnum and Nikita in your "One On One" feature. Let's get the story Smith missed.

DOUG MAGEE  
Lockport, NY

## VAN THE MAN

I've noticed that you haven't put Big Van Vader in your Top 10 ratings yet.

What's wrong with you guys? Here's a man who holds titles in three different parts of the world, and you don't give him any credit! When is the last time Ric Flair or Hulk Hogan—or anyone else, for that matter!—did what Vader has done? Wake up!

MATT SIKES  
Citronelle, AL

## A GATHERING OF LIES

It seems that whenever Eric Embry and Dr. Tom Prichard get together for an interview on USWA TV in Memphis or in Dallas, they tell the biggest tall tales. They run off their mouths about how they're big, tough Texans who are going to run Tennesseans like Jeff Jarrett, Eddie Gilbert, and Robert Fuller out of the sport.

Yeah, right.

Intelligent fans of the USWA know





Eric Embry battles Jerry Lawler. Reader Wesley Stanton calls Embry and his cohort, Tom Prichard, a pair of liars who'll say anything to get attention.

to ignore everything that Embry and Prichard say, and I mean *everything*. If they wished me "good morning" at 8 a.m., I'd make sure my watch wasn't broken.

WESLEY STANTON  
Knoxville, TN

### LUSTRE-FREE

You were right on target with your story, "Why The Intercontinental Belt Has Lost Its Lustre" (June 1991). The current champion, Curt Hennig, has almost been forgotten in all the press

### LEGIONNAIRE

The Legion of Doom is definitely going to win the WWF World tag title from The Nasty Boys, and I'm even more convinced of that after reading "The Legion Of Doom: Mean And Hungry Again!" (June 1991).

Hawk and Animal haven't looked this good since they dominated the AWA back in the mid-'80s. In their quest to become the first team to win the AWA, WCW, and WWF World tag belts, they are looking nearly unstoppable. When they get in there against the Nastys, Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags won't have much hope of survival!

GERALD CALLAWAY  
Hilo, HI



"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig is a great Intercontinental champion who doesn't receive enough attention because of Hulk Hogan. That's the contention of reader Sarah Harter.

about Hulk Hogan regaining the World title. That's a shame. Although "Mr. Perfect" isn't the most honorable competitor in the world, he is an excellent wrestler.

With a great roster of past champions like Pedro Morales, Magnificent Muraco, Randy Savage, and Ultimate Warrior, the I-C title deserves better treatment.

SARAH HARTER  
Wayne, NJ

### JAMIE'S A JOKE

Reading the "One On One" with Bill and Jamie Dundee (June 1991), any sane person can only draw one conclusion:

Jamie should quit the sport.

He is a terrible manager, and don't even *think* of him being a wrestler! Sure, he's had some boxing matches against Uptown Bruno, but the skill level both of those guys showed was virtually non-existent. They would have been better off hitting each other with pillowcases.

At least Bruno had some skill as a manager. Jamie thinks he does, but he couldn't be more wrong. Let's hope that Bill Dundee knocks some sense into his bratty son's skull real soon.

LANA WHITGRAD  
Lexington, KY  
(Continued on page 52)



# SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

A study by Inside Wrestling reveals that the average weight in professional wrestling has risen 12.2 pounds since 1970. That might not mean a lot to a lot of people, but it means the world to Tim Horner.

"I'm 235 pounds," the 11-year veteran says. "I'm not a little guy. Hey, you guys publish boxing magazines. I look at your heavyweight Top 12 ratings, and I outweigh all but three guys. Yet in this sport I'm a little guy. My best weight is probably 225. I'm wrestling 10 pounds over my best weight because I have to. I can't go any higher than 235."

Some wrestlers—like Davey Boy Smith—can add bulk without much problem. Others become extremely slow and constricted by added mass. "If I can't take advantage of my number-one attribute, speed, what the heck good am I?" Horner asks.

His answer came recently from WCW Executive Vice President Jim Herd, who announced a plan to reinstate the WCW junior heavyweight championship. "There has to be a forum for the Tim Horners and Rip Rogers of the world," Herd told me. "But even more importantly, the sport has to find a way to attract athletes who weigh between 200 and 240 pounds. The emphasis on big, bigger, and biggest has left too many super athletes—potential wrestling stars—far behind."

Particularly with the added use of Japanese wrestlers, Herd envisions the junior heavyweight title as a competitive alternative that the fans will learn to appreciate. The key to the success of the division is how the wrestlers themselves feel about it. They can't have the attitude: "Well, I took my shot at the heavyweight title and failed; the junior heavyweight title is better than nothing." If the wrestlers get excited about this new opportunity and make it their primary goal, the fans will pick up on that excitement and the division will have a sparkling future.



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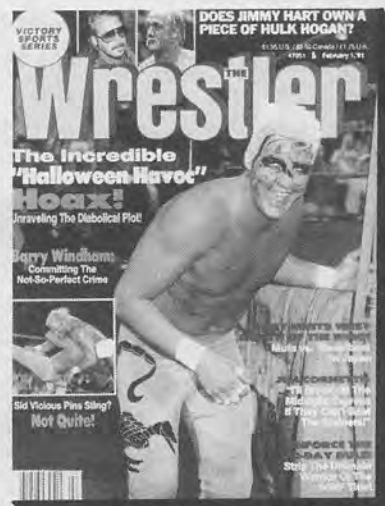
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# NAMES MAKING

ONE OF THE sport's most publicized friendships gives all indications of nearing its end. Twice this year **Hulk Hogan** and **Tugboat** have eliminated one another in battle royals, and there are very definite bitter feelings between them.

The latest incident took place in April at the Omaha Civic Auditorium and was later broadcast nationally on NBC's *Saturday Night's Main Event*. The 407-pound seafarer eliminated the "Hulkster" from a 20-man battle royal and Hogan's response to the ouster came as a surprise to ringside fans. He pointed and shouted insults at Tugboat, the same man who launched a letter-writing campaign to bring Hogan back to the sport after the "Hulkster's" ribs were crushed by **Earthquake** last year.



**TUGBOAT**

Tugboat acted unusually happy about showing up his friend. Perhaps he was taking joy in revenge. It was Hogan who dumped Tugboat over the top rope to eliminate him at the Royal Rumble in January. Several sources have reported that Hogan wants to challenge Tugboat to a match once his feud with **Sgt. Slaughter** is completed.

"If one thing is a certainty about Hogan, it's that he holds a grudge," said a high-placed WWF source. "Look at what happened with **Randy Savage** a couple of years ago. Actually, a Hogan-Tugboat series is very intriguing, since Tugboat is one of the few men in the WWF who can match Hogan's power."

While the strife between Hogan and Tugboat simmers, **Elizabeth** is desperately trying to reinstate Savage in



**ELIZABETH**

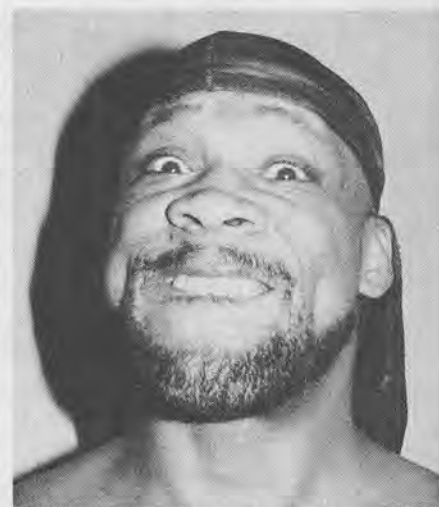
the WWF. The "Macho King" lost a retirement match to **The Ultimate Warrior** at WrestleMania VII, and has competed only in contractual-obligation bouts in the U.S. and Japan since then.

Elizabeth is willing to go through any legal means possible to get Randy back in action. I've been told that she'd even be willing to put Savage back in the ring for a rematch with Warrior in order to end the ban. I

wouldn't be surprised if Savage was back in full-time action by the time you read this.

Several top stars were negotiating with WCW about making their debuts in the federation. Most notably, **Steve Austin**, the 1990 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Rookie of the Year, was close to reaching agreement to enter the federation. Other stars headed in are **The Diamond Stud** and **P.N. News**, **The Rap Master**. In other WCW news, **Dutch Mantel**, **Black Bart**, and **Deadeye Dick** have formed a six-man tag team called **The Desperados**.

Two IWCCW championships changed hands on April 19 in South China, Maine. Newcomers **The Georgia Guerrillas** defeated **The Madison Brothers** to capture the IWCCW tag team title, while **Tony Atlas** regained the ICW belt from **Vic Steamboat** on



**TONY ATLAS**

the same card. In the case of Atlas, this is very bad news, since the man who was billed as **Saba Simba** in the WWF has been on a rampage of brutality.

"I didn't get any respect in the WWF," said Atlas after defeating

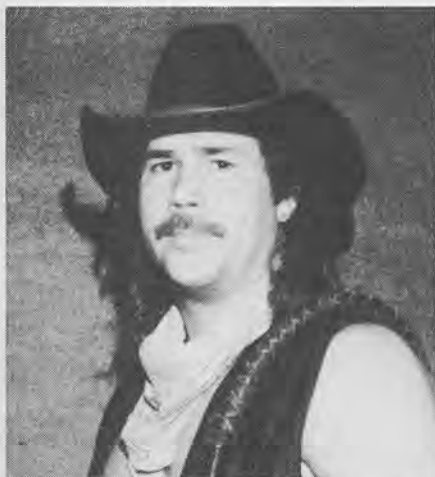


# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

Steamboat. "Then, when I came back to the IWCCW, I had to wait on line for a title match. Well, even though I'm a champion again, I'm *still* frustrated. I'm gonna take it out on Steamboat, **Kevin Von Erich**, the officials, the referees, *anybody*. Nobody slights me and gets away with it." It's hard to believe this is the same man that fans cheered for just a few years ago, isn't it?

More title changes: "**Outlaw**" **Joel Deaton** regained the Georgia All-Star title from **Steve "The Brawler" Lawler** on April 21 in Canton, Geor-



JOEL DEATON

gia. It's Deaton's third go-round with the belt... In what is considered by many Japanese fans to be a stunning upset, **Stan Hansen** and **Dan Spivey** downed **Terry Gordy** and **Steve Williams** for the All-Japan and Pacific Wrestling Federation tag team titles on April 18 in Tokyo. Gordy and Williams had dominated All-Japan rings for more than a year... Rugged **Doug Vines** beat **Wendell Cooley** to win the All-Star Championship title on April 27 in Knoxville, Tennessee.

What's wrong with LPWA Commissioner **Wally Karbo**? That's been the question on many fans' minds in re-

cent months. The veteran administrator has been surprisingly lax in enforcing the rules, and has failed to order any punishments against managers **Boogaloo Brown**, "**Queen**" **Christopher Love**, and **Jonathan Blue** for some blatant rules infractions.



CHRISTOPHER LOVE

In addition, Karbo stunned just about everyone by granting unranked **Cindy Paradise** a one-fall match against LPWA champion **Lady X**. Many LPWA competitors are starting to think that X's manager, **Ashley Kennedy**, has gained influence on the commissioner.

"Look at the facts," griped **Reggie Bennett**, who has emerged as a top contender for the title. "**Terri Power**, myself, and **Susan Sexton** have all



SUSAN SEXTON

been passed over for shots, but Lady X only takes on unproven talent. There's no doubt about it—Kennedy is picking her spots, and Karbo is letting her get away with it. I demand an investigation!"

Pacific Northwest champion **Steve Doll** returned to Portland following a lengthy trip to Japan—and brought back his **Southern Rockers** partner, **Rex King**. King and Doll have emerged as top contenders for the vacant PNW title, as have **The Bruise Brothers**, **Ron** and **Don Harris**... Exciting **Dan Kroffat** and **Doug Furnas** won the All-Japan Asian tag



BILL DUNDEE

team title from **The "New" British Bulldogs**—**Johnny Smith** and **Dynamite Kid**—on April 20 in Tokyo... **Steve Keirn** and **Bill Dundee** scored several non-title victories over USWA tag team champions **The Texas Hangmen** during April.

Popular East Coast independent star **Bialo the Giant** died on April 24 at his home in Brooklyn, New York. Bialo, a 6'5", 550-pounder who competed for more than three years, succumbed to a massive heart attack. He also was a successful actor, and was most recently seen in the hit action film **Out For Justice** starring **Steven Seagal**. Bialo was 31. □



**T**HE MORE THINGS change,  
the more they stay the same.

One book of quotations I own credits that pearl of wisdom to a man named Alphonse Karr. He said it in 1849 at the age of 41. He originally said it in French. I don't know what other claims to fame he has (none of the other books in my reference library list him), but I do know this: I doubt Alphonse had any sport in mind, much less professional wrestling, when he penned those words.

Still, the words *do* apply to the sport we love. I was thinking about them while discussing wrestling with two neighbors, Barney and Mitch. Like Matt Brock and Eddie Ellner and many other curmudgeons I know, Barney and Mitch pine for the old days.

"Back when I was a fan, we didn't have any of this nonsense with snakes," claimed Barney as we discussed the Jake Roberts-Earthquake feud and the 'Quake's squishing of Damian.

"Things are just so ridiculous these days," chimed in Mitch. "Between the animals at ringside and the bizarre personas some of these wrestlers take on. I heard that WCW is bringing in wrestlers called Scarecrow, Tin Woodsman (not to be confused with Tim Woods, man), Dorothy . . . hell, maybe they'll bring back midget wrestling and call 'em munchkins! There was none of that stuff going on back when I was a fan."

Sorry, Barney and Mitch—you're both wrong. Or you're exercising selective memories.

The fact of the matter is that fans who decry the outrageousness of the sport today tend to forget that the sport was *always* outrageous, at least since the day when George Wagner donned gold hairpins and an orchard-colored robe and entered the ring accompanied by a valet and a new moniker: Gorgeous George.

That was over 40 years ago, and the sport has seen a lot of silliness since then, not all of it beneath the WWF banner. Snakes? Look in the history books under "John Tolos." Bizarre individuals? Ever hear of The Great Wazuki, a seven-foot-tall Watusi wrestler, or Quasimodo, the hunchbacked wrestler?



George Ringo

A few more examples:

● On August 11, 1964, world-famous actress Jayne Mansfield sent a telegram to the National Features Syndicate, a worldwide press service: "This telegram will confirm the fact that I am seriously considering managing the wrestling Beatle, George Ringo, beginning next month when he starts

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

his U.S. tour of major wrestling cities. He is a very exciting personality and a truly remarkable athlete . . ." Further investigation revealed, in the November 1964 edition of *Boxing Illustrated/Wrestling News* magazine,

that George Ringo was, in fact, Bob Sabre, a noted wrestling photographer who had turned to the mat, retired, and decided to reactivate his career when Beatlemania swept the country. (The tradition of photographers entering the sport is a rich one, by the way: Paul E.

Dangerously, Jim Cornette, and Sam Lowe all started out in wrestling as photographers for our family of magazines.)

● In the early-'60s, wrestling was terrorized by a trio of behemoths known as Black Ozzie, Victor, and Terrible Ted. A muscular pre-Road Warrior era power tag team? Hardly. Wrestling bears. Yes, *literally* bears. Bear wrestling became all the rage in the '60s. Ted was active in the sport as late as 1970. *Sports Illustrated* devoted several pages to Victor in its February 23, 1970, issue.

● In the early-'80s, a wrestler named Tiger Mask began thrilling Japanese fans. In late-1982, Tiger Mask stunned



Tiger Mask vs. Jose Estrada

WWF fans as he battled such foes as Dynamite Kid, Eddie Gilbert, and Jose Estrada. But what many fans didn't realize was that Tiger Mask was based on a character in a Japanese comic book! The comic book character came first, then along came a remarkably athletic competitor named Satoru Sayama, who adopted the persona and made the character come alive. (Perhaps we can be thankful there are no Wolverine or Punisher wrestlers, though there was a Ninja Turtle wrestler in the USWA briefly last year.)

So the next time you look at some of the absurdities in the sport today, whether it's animals at ringside in the WWF or *Wizard Of Oz* wannabes in WCW, consider the words of Alphonse Karr. Or even David Byrne: *Same as it ever was . . . same as it ever was . . . same as it ever was . . .* □



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David Rosenbaum**

IN MY "NO Holds Barred" column this month in *The Wrestler*, I dealt with image and reality and the contention that a fan favorite who turns rulebreaker isn't always bad, and a rulebreaker who turns fan favorite isn't always good.

Now it's time to deal with a different kind of image and reality. I'm talking about The Four Horsemen, who supposedly split up several months ago. Of course, we've heard this story before, and, once again, it seems to be fantasy.

After all, what are we supposed to think when Ric Flair, Barry Windham, Arn Anderson, and Sid Vicious—the most recent version of the Horsemen—split up but remain in the federation?

And what are we supposed to think when these four wrestlers team in various combinations in tag team and six-man matches?

And when these four wrestlers are often seen together at restaurants?

And when these four wrestlers often huddle before matches to discuss strategy?

And when Ric Flair has still been seen handing checks to the other *former* Horsemen?

And when various combinations of these four wrestlers continue to interfere on behalf of each other?

Really, as Matt Brock pointed out in his "Plain Speaking" elsewhere in this issue, something funny is going on here. Basically, it's all a ruse.

"No doubt about it," Sting said. "I don't care if the Horsemen are together in name or not, it really doesn't matter. I don't know why they're going through so much expense to fool us. Maybe they're trying to make us think that we

*(Continued on page 56)*



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In which sport did Ken Patera win an Olympic medal?

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1) Weightlifting | 3) Gymnastics |
| 2) Wrestling     | 4) Boxing     |

Who was Hulk Hogan's first WWF manager?

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1) Fred Blassie    | 3) Jimmy Hart |
| 2) Arnold Skaaland | 4) Elizabeth  |

Which man was never a member of Paul Ellering's Legion of Doom?

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Jake Roberts | 3) King Kong Bundy |
| 2) Hawk         | 4) Buzz Sawyer     |

For which NFL team did Brian Pillman compete?

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Kansas City Chiefs | 3) Cincinnati Bengals |
| 2) Los Angeles Rams   | 4) Atlanta Falcons    |

Gorilla Monsoon was originally billed as being from:

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1) Manchuria | 3) New Jersey |
| 2) Croatia   | 4) Montreal   |

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# THE INSIDER

By **Eddie Ellner**

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

## **MEDIA WATCH**

I've been ill lately, bedridden by the Mother of all Flus. I wake up at odd times, unraveled, and flip on the television for orientation. Of course wrestling, the Mother of all Programming, is frequently on. This makes me happy—sometimes; more often than not I'd prefer *Addams Family* reruns. Though both share a peculiar nightmarish quality, at least Uncle Fester and Lurch make me laugh.

Lately, I don't know whether, in my feverish delirium, I am imagining some of the programming I see or if this is actually what is being offered by the wrestling federations. Maybe one of you readers could help me out.

### **DID I SEE ANDRE THE GIANT IDIOT ATTACK SOME POOR WOMAN IN A BAR WITH A PADDLE?**

Was it Fabulous Moolah? Did Lord Al Hays call the Idiot "one frisky Frenchman"? Is Fabulous Moolah still alive? Do women still wrestle? Did Wendi Richter really once sell out Madison Square Garden?

Forgive me, I stray. But I am ill.

I know this one couldn't have really happened. But when I asked around the office, no one could look me in the eye. Fright-



Eddie Ellner thinks he might have seen Andre the Giant spank a woman, but, in his feverish state, he's not too sure. Ellner confused? Can't be!

ened, no doubt by what I might write if I learned the thing was for real. But I'll find out. Was that Andre I saw or Swamp Thing? Through watery eyes they look so much alike. I must find out.

### **RANDY SAVAGE INVADES THE BROADCASTING BOOTH**

This I *know* was real, because during the broadcast a marshall knocked on my door with an eviction notice, which is as real as life gets. Don't fret, good readers, I am moving into a nice garden

apartment in a lovely tree-speckled neighborhood where I intend to meet a nice girl, marry, and raise a family. And I will use "Macho King" Randy Savage as an example to my children of how destructive unrealized potential can be to a man.

Presumably, someone is paying Savage to talk. For five years in the WWF, the man did not put together a single sentence that qualified for the English language.

*(Continued on page 58)*



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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

**C**AN YOU SENSE it? There's a feeling in the air, a sensation that something big is about to happen. Close your eyes. Concentrate. Look for it. There it is. Something new, something fresh, something to kick the sport in the kidneys and get people talking.

I sense it. Big changes are just around the corner, and what's new about the sport is what's old about the sport: women's wrestling. Specifically, the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association.

I've talked about the LPWA plenty of times before in this space, but the federation bears repeated exposure if only because, like I said, something big is about to happen.

No, I don't have any inside news to report on LPWA activities, and I didn't just score \$50-million in the lottery that I'm going to use to help turn the LPWA into a worldwide promotion. I just have the feeling that something is about to break wide open. Too many of the LPWA stars have been getting too much good press for something *not* to happen.

Sure, the federation still boasts slugs like Comrade Orga, but look at the cream that's rising to the top: Reggie Bennett and Terri Power have the capability to propel the women's side of the sport into a new era based on sheer athleticism and physical strength and prowess.

"Don't put that kind of responsibility on *me!*" said Power with a



Terri Power represents a new style of female wrestler who will propel women's wrestling to new heights of popularity. That is the belief of Liz Hunter.

laugh. "Look, I've heard all kinds of whispers from the press. One reporter wanted my blessing to baptize me 'the female Hulk Hogan,' but I wouldn't give it to him. First of all, I want to be known for my own abilities and my own strengths, not as a second-rate female version of a male star. Secondly, I think it's important to avoid *all* comparisons, if only for the integrity of the athlete herself.

"I don't think the success or failure of the LPWA rests on any one athlete's shoulders," Power continued. "At this point, the federation is pretty diverse. You have myself and Reggie, who represent

a hard-muscled athleticism. You have Susan Sexton, a veteran who blends an old-school style with a '90s enthusiasm. And you have a woman like Madusa Miceli, who traveled to Japan and became incredibly diverse in terms of being able to blend martial arts in with her mat style. We're all serious athletes, and the success or failure of the LPWA rests on our integrity as athletes, not on how much skin we show in pinups."

Today, the LPWA is aired on the Madison Square Garden cable network and on dozens of in-

*(Continued on page 60)*



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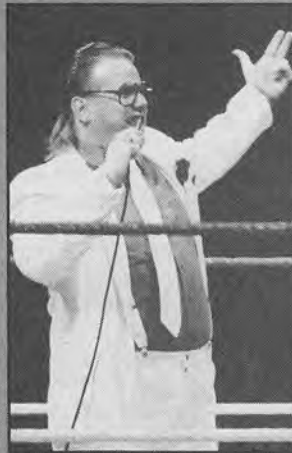
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## NICK BOCKWINKEL

A four-time AWA champion, Bockwinkel retired in 1987. The Beverly Hills, California, native has managed to keep close to the sport since then, working as occasional color commentator and special referee for

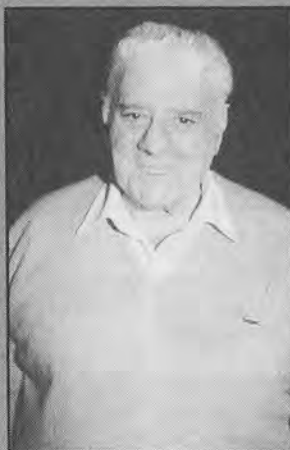
the AWA. The articulate Bockwinkel is also in the real estate business in Minneapolis. "I wanted to invest my savings wisely," reasoned Bockwinkel. "Why not help other people do the same thing?"



## BROTHER LOVE

According to a WWF source, this pompous preacher is still recuperating from injuries suffered at the hands of The Ultimate Warrior. "He's at his estate in Connecticut in recuperative therapy, but he's mapping out a return," the source

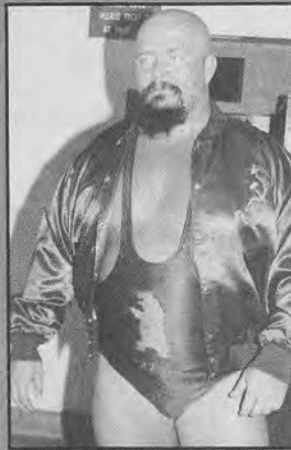
told us. Love, who sold the contract of The Undertaker to Paul Bearer, was the interviewer on *WWF Superstars Of Wrestling* until a January attack by the Warrior put him out of commission.



## ANGELO SAVOLDI

Formerly a rulebreaker, this Italian sensation held the NWA junior heavyweight title twice in the '50s and '60s. Savoldi, who is the father of popular Joe Savoldi, is currently a member of the IWCCW advisory committee, assisting the

federation in determining its by-laws. "I'm a real rules stickler now," said Savoldi. "My biggest thrill has been to see how far Joe has come in this sport. Seeing fine young talent develop is a true joy."



## BORIS ZUKHOV

Following a violent feud with Nikolai Volkoff in 1990, this Russian veteran departed the WWF. Even though Zukhov is now competing in the UWF and other independent federations, he is still determined to gain revenge on Volkoff.

"Nikolai turned against his homeland," said Zukhov angrily. "He must be punished for his transgressions." After only a few appearances, Zukhov has emerged as a top contender for the UWF TV title.



# INSIDE WRESTLING

181

## CAPSULE PROFILE

**A** VETERAN OF the mat game who began his career in 1971, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine is currently being cheered by fans throughout the WWF (*"Remarkable, considering how the fans have jeered for so long"*) ... The son of wrestling legend Johnny Valentine (*"Can't get better bloodlines than that"*) ... Built his early reputation on a foundation of sadism and cruelty (*"Throughout the sport, the Valentine name was feared and respected"*) ... Backed his attitude up with solid wrestling, a formidable figure-four leglock, and a devastating elbowsmash that earned him the nickname "The Hammer" ... Credited with breaking the legs of dozens of opponents, including Wahoo McDaniel in 1977 and Chief Jay Strongbow in 1978 (*"The fact of the matter is that they deserved it, it's that simple"*) ... Held the NWA (now WCW) World tag team title with Ric Flair in 1977 (*"What a pair of lethal competitors!"*) ... Also held the Mid-Atlantic championship and the U.S. tag team title ... Competed in the WWF in 1981 and '82 under the management of The Grand Wizard (*"One of the greatest managerial minds that ever existed"*) ... In capturing the U.S. belt from Roddy Piper in 1983, mutilated the "Rowdy Scot's" ear ... Returned to

## GREG VALENTINE

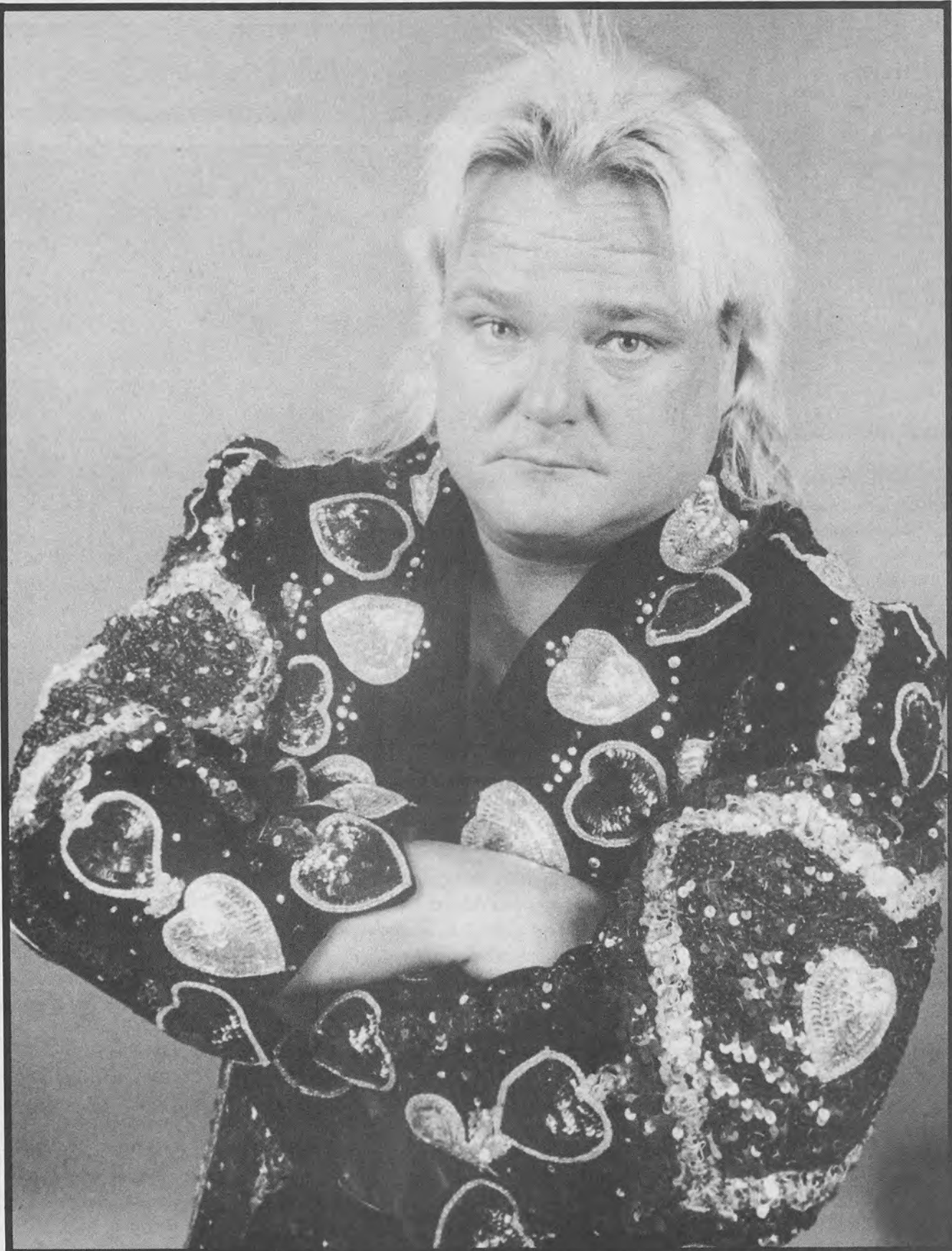


Greg "The Hammer" Valentine introduces young Mike Durham to his hard elbowsmash. A 20-year veteran, Valentine counts the WWF Intercontinental and World tag team titles, and the NWA (now WCW) World tag title, among his greatest achievements.

the WWF in 1984 under the management of Capt. Lou Albano (*"The Captain is always a force to be reckoned with"*) ... Captured the Intercontinental title from Tito Santana on September 24, 1984, in London, Ontario (*"A hell of a match!"*) ... During the bout, damaged Santana's right leg with the figure-four (*"As formidable a weapon as the 'hammer'"*) ... Dropped the title back to Santana on July 6, 1985, in Baltimore ... Began teaming with Brutus Beefcake and helped the enthusiastic youngster learn the fundamentals of the sport (*"Beefcake was an eager student"*) ... They captured the WWF World tag team title from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo on Au-

gust 24, 1985, and held the belts for eight months before losing to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania II ... Was managed by several men, including Johnny Valiant and Jimmy Hart, and ultimately wound up in the company of The Honky Tonk Man; the duo was known as Rhythm 'n' Blues (*"Trying to imitate Honky Tonk, even down to the black-dyed hair, was a big mistake!"*) ... Left the WWF in late-1990, but returned shortly thereafter with a return to basics: blond hair, devastating elbowsmash, and awesome figure-four ... Breaking away from Jimmy Hart has made Valentine a fan favorite (*"It looks like the cheers are gonna last!"*)

## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**GREG VALENTINE**



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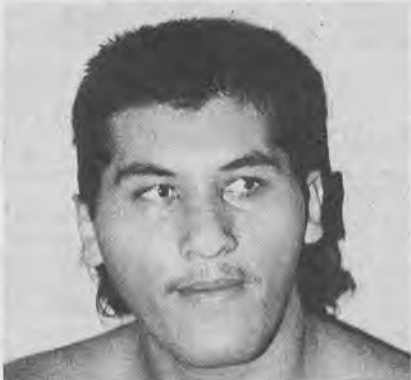
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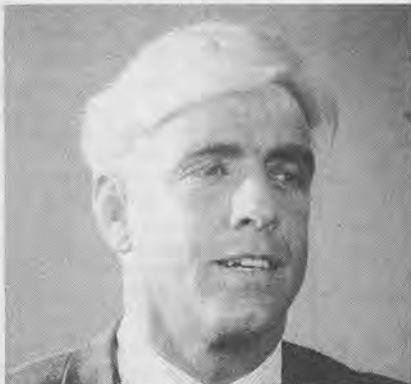
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## WASHINGTON, DC By Ray Ney



**EL GIGANTE  
vs.  
RIC FLAIR**



Flair was extremely wary as he defended his WCW World title against the giant from Argentina, and no wonder: Gigante rocked Flair with a series of slams, then applied a clawhold on the champion that covered his entire head! Flair managed to break Gigante's grip by reaching the ropes, and went on to retain the title by causing his own disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bobby Eaton beat El Cubano ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Black Bart ... Brad Armstrong beat Dutch Mantel ... Sting & Brian Pillman beat Arn Anderson & Mike Graham ... Lex Luger wrestled Nikita Koloff to a double-disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Terrence Taylor & Master Blaster Steel ... Ron Simmons beat Butch Reed.

## AUBURN HILLS, MI By Michael Leonard



**ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
vs.  
THE UNDERTAKER**



This was the first match between Warrior and Undertaker after Undertaker and his manager, Paul Bearer, locked Warrior in a coffin and nearly suffocated him. After glaring at each other for several minutes, they locked up. They pounded each other with slams and smashes, but neither man was able to gain an advantage. Bearer then decided to get involved. He handed an urn to Undertaker, who hit Warrior with it to earn a disqualification.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Power & Glory defeated The Bushwhackers ... Hacksaw Duggan beat Col. Mustafa ... The Rockers defeated The Orient Express ... Big Bossman pinned The Mountie ... Earthquake beat Jake Roberts by disqualification ... Curt Hennig pinned Davey Boy Smith.

## ATLANTA, GA By Ed Crawford



**RON SIMMONS  
vs.  
BUTCH REED**

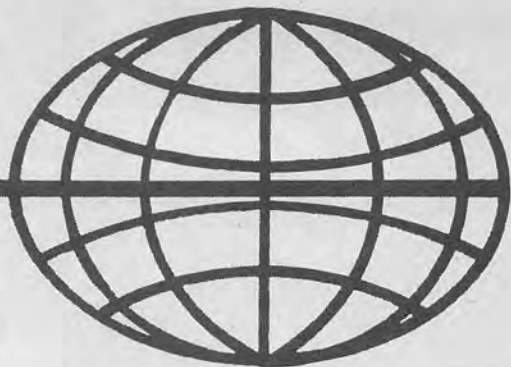


The two former Doom partners squared off in a lumberjack street fight. The fans were clearly behind Simmons, who was on the offensive from the start. Simmons most likely would have scored the pin, but Kevin Sullivan and One Man Gang interfered on Reed's behalf. They caused Reed to be disqualified, ensuring that this feud would continue another day.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Big Josh pinned Moondog Rex ... One Man Gang pinned Brad Armstrong ... Dustin Rhodes pinned El Cubano ... Tom Zenk pinned Larry Zbyszko ... Terrence Taylor beat Bobby Eaton by disqualification ... Rick & Scott Steiner beat Arn Anderson & Sid Vicious ... Lex Luger and Nikita Koloff were both disqualified ... El Gigante & Sting beat Ric Flair & Arn Anderson.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## CAROLINA, PR By Jose Hernandez



**CARLOS COLON  
vs.  
DICK MURDOCH**



Colon was defending his WWC Universal title against "Tricky" Dick Murdoch in a barbed-wire match in which Murdoch's protegee, Joe Don Smith, was suspended in a cage 15 feet above the ring. Despite his distance from the ring, Smith tried to interfere by dropping Murdoch a pair of brass knuckles. Colon grabbed the knucks, whacked Murdoch with them, and pinned him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Invader I & El Bronco I beat Tony Anthony & Brian Lee by disqualification ... King Kong and TNT were both counted out ... Scott Hall drew with Giant Warrior ... Kim Duk beat Action Jackson by disqualification ... Ricky Santana pinned Mr. Pogo ... Doug Gilbert & Galan Mendoza defeated Hurricane Castillo Jr. & Miguel Perez Jr.

## WEST PALM BEACH, FL By Donna Hubbard



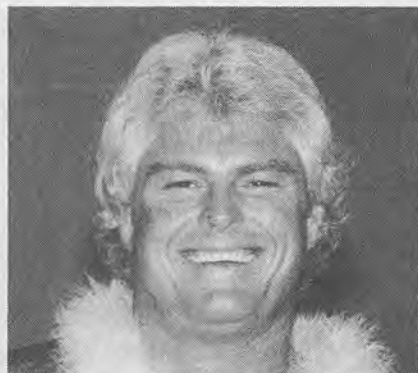
**HULK HOGAN  
vs.  
SGT. SLAUGHTER**



The burning incident at WrestleMania VII made the "Hulkster" eager for re-matches with the traitorous sergeant. From the start, Hogan had Slaughter cowering in fear as he pounded him with kicks, punches, and slams. In an attempt to recover, Slaughter stooped to his usual low methods, which included using a chair on Hulk. When Hulk grabbed the chair to use on Slaughter, the referee disqualified him.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Big Bossman pinned The Mountie ... Col. Mustafa made Johnny Ace submit ... Rick Anderson beat Randy Hunter ... Marty Jannetty pinned Kato ... Irwin R. Shyster pinned Tugboat ... Ted DiBiase pinned Virgil ... The Legion of Doom beat The Nasty Boys by countout.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Mark Mitchell



**ROBERT FULLER  
vs.  
TOM PRICHARD**



Fuller has been a surprising help to Jeff Jarrett in the ongoing feud between Tennessee and Texas wrestlers, and he proved again that he's a man Jarrett can trust—at least for now. The advantage flip-flopped often during the match, which quickly degenerated into sheer violence. Finally, the brawling got so out of hand that the referee was forced to stop the bout and declare a no-contest.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Dan Davis drew with Psycho ... Bill Dundee pinned Killer ... Southern champion Jeff Jarrett pinned Steve Austin ... Eric Embry battled Eddie Gilbert to a no-contest ... In an elimination match, Eric Embry, Tom Prichard, Steve Austin, & The Texas Hangmen beat Jeff Jarrett, Robert Fuller, Bill Dundee, & Dan Davis.



# Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

**ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY:** After years of ignoring me and my influence on this magazine and the rest of our family of publications, the editors of *Inside Wrestling* have finally decided to acknowledge the existence of this reporter. Hard to believe, isn't it, that the name "Matt Brock" has never appeared in the staff box of this magazine or any of its sister publications? I'm not one to toot my own horn, but who's been at this game longer than yours truly? Just look at what it says on top of this page every month: "... has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist." Damn straight. Well, a slot in the staff box wasn't something I was going to complain about. Complaining isn't my speed. I just thought I'd wait and see how long it would take, and it finally happened, starting with this issue. Yeah, go ahead, take a look, I'll still be here when you come back, and I'll even tell you why it happened. Craig Peters was named Editor-in-Chief. Stu Saks has moved on to handle more administrative tasks (i.e.: a boring-as-hell desk job). Peters is in charge, Brock finally gets recognized. Just a coincidence? Looks like Peters and I might get along.



**UNDERTAKER VS. ULTIMATE WARRIOR**

er's manager, just adds to the sideshow air of this match. You just know these two will slug it out till one drops, and that's what happened tonight. The thing is, I'm not sure I want to see it again. Come to think of it, I'm not sure I want to see this arena again.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA:** Standing outside near the ticket booth at the Civic Center, I'm trying to discern the word on the street regarding a match between Jerry Lawler and The Honky Tonk Man, which will be the main event on the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance's May 18 show here. So

**AUBURN HILLS, MI:** Back on the road, and what better place to start than in the sterilized surroundings of The Palace. There was a time when wrestling matches were held in gyms that had character. Those days are long gone. The Palace has clean, cushiony seats, clean restrooms, expensive concessions, and plenty of lighting. What's worse, you can't smoke in the arena seating area. Now, I don't smoke, haven't in a while (although a stogie here and there sure sounds appealing), but to me, the heavy smoke, the tacky babes, and the bad lighting all added to the mystique of wrestling. Get me back to Cobo Hall! Cobo would have been a more appropriate setting for a match between The Undertaker and The Ultimate Warrior. People tell me that this could be the Feud of the Year, but somehow I doubt it. We're talking about two power merchants who have never tried a single scientific move in their lives. What's worse, Paul Bearer, Undertak-



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



**THE HONKY TONK MAN**

far, mixed reviews. "Can't wait," says one ticket-buyer. "What a dog!" growls another, "That'll be the match when I go grab a hot dog." Wrote Bob Smith in the April 22 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly*: "Many fans don't realize that 'The King' and the insipid Elvis imitator are cousins, and they've never wanted to have anything to do with each other." Well, when I gave the second guy that information (actually, neither ticket-buyer realized they're cousins), he reconsidered his snack-purchasing schedule. Me, I'm placing my money on Lawler; and lots of it. Honky Tonk really is looking like Elvis—the flabby Elvis of the '70s. If Lawler can't beat Honky Tonk, there's something very wrong going on. This is no challenge, it's a potential massacre.

**ATLANTA, GA:** The way I hear it, The Four Horsemen are dead. Finished. Kaput. So the first thing I see is Barry Windham and Arn Anderson—two former members of the most recent incarnation of the Horsemen—teaming in

matches throughout the country. Then I see a six-man tag match pitting El Gigante, Sting, and Brian Pillman, against Windham, Anderson, and Ric Flair. The Horsemen are defunct? Could have fooled me. It all makes no sense. Have the Horsemen really broken up, or is this all some kind of smokescreen? "As a formal unit, we're done," Flair told me, "but we're still friends and we still work very well together. The thing is, there's no longer the business attachment, and that makes things a lot



**BARRY WINDHAM & RIC FLAIR**

easier. When we wrestle a match, there are three separate checks. It used to be just one. So while The Four Horsemen no longer exist, we're still around to wrestle." Sounds to me like a smokescreen. I'd like to find out whether the Horsemen really have broken even their business arrangement. There could be a scandal here. And who better than Matt Brock—*Contributing Editor* Matt Brock—to expose it? □

# JERRY LAWLER'S SILENT SCREAM:

# "I CAN'T TAKE THE PAIN—STOP! PLEASE STOP!"

**With each passing match, USWA champion Jerry Lawler comes closer to putting a premature end to his career. Plagued by serious injuries that refuse to heal, Lawler's suffering will continue until either his fiercely competitive pride or his crippled body finally give out!**

**By Bob Smith**

**I** CAN'T BELIEVE this is happening again. Don't these men have any mercy? Those sadistic, laughing faces. Stop kicking my back! Stop punching my head! Even I can't fight back against three men!

Everything is upside down. What's happening? Oh ... my backbone is being driven up through my throat. Can't move,

can't even breathe. No, it's happening again. And again. I'm blacking out. I can't take the pain. Stop! Please stop!

The horror awakened the wrestler from his nightmare. Dripping cold sweat, he stared at his nightstand. The digital alarm clock stared 3:14 a.m. back at him. Just a bad dream, he thought. Another bad dream.

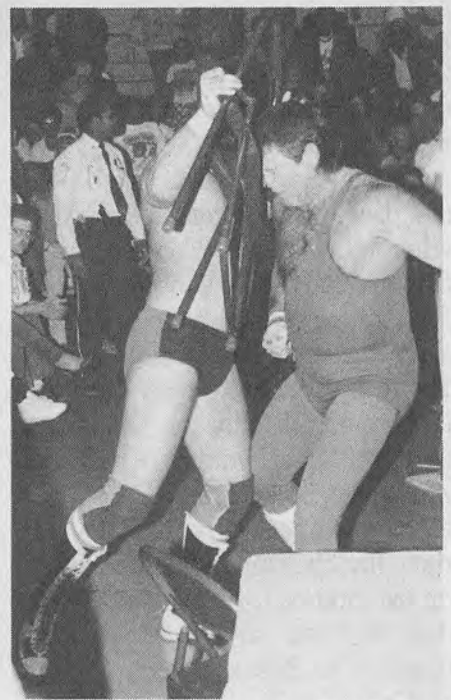
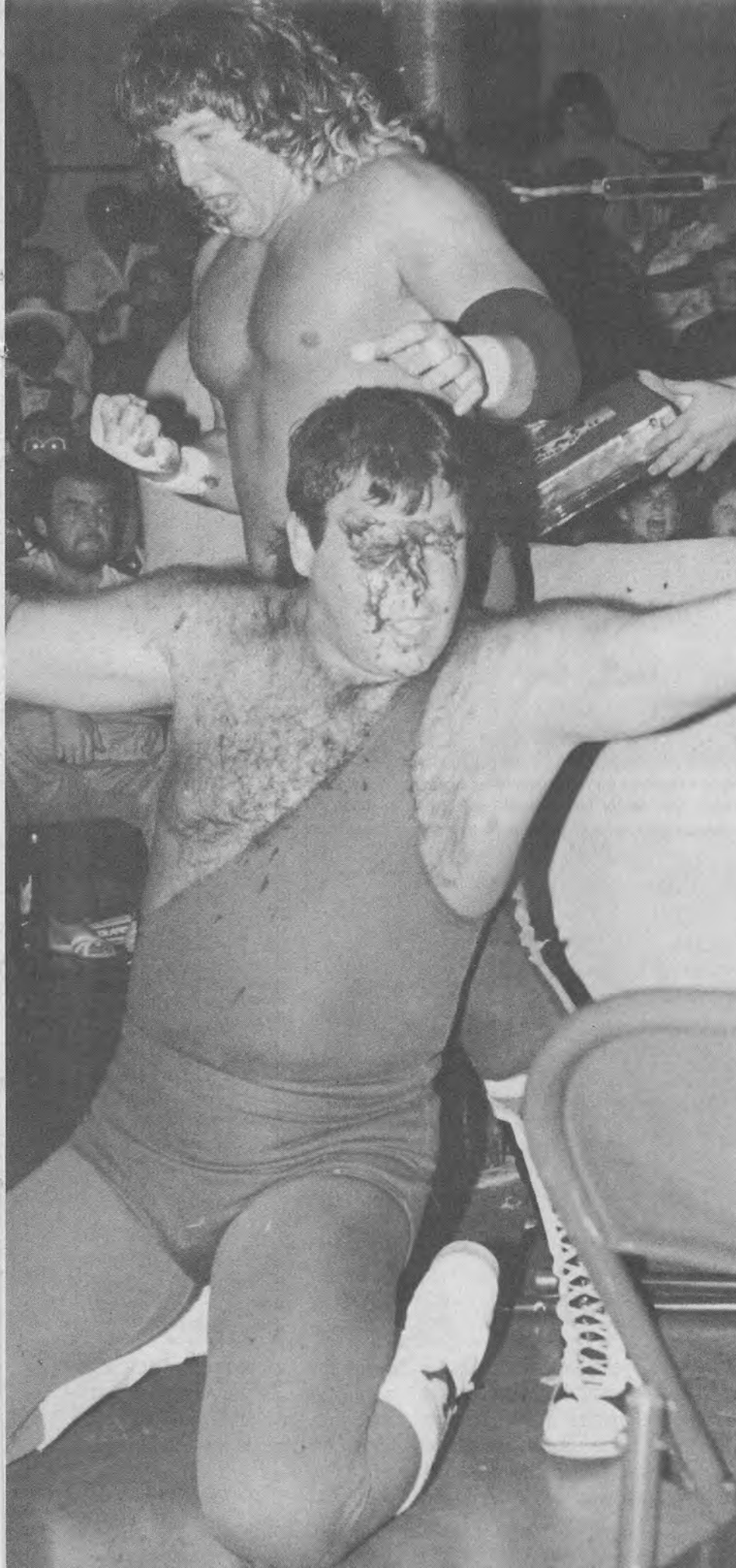
But the pain was real.

Jerry Lawler has had that night-



*Photos by Scott George & Buddy Myers*





Being bloodied and beaten by Tom Prichard (left and above) and clobbered by Eric Embry (below) has caused Lawler nightmares!



mare dozens of times since October, when he emerged as the winner of a grueling tournament to regain the USWA title. Many fans rank his victory over Austin Idol in the tournament final among the greatest conquests of his career.

That victory came at a great cost, though. In the semifinal match before winning the title, Terry Funk and Eddie Gilbert combined to double-piledrive "The King." But even that attack

paled in comparison to what Funk, Gilbert, and Idol did after Lawler defeated Idol: They delivered five more piledrivers!

As much as he values his USWA title, Lawler's nightmares don't end when he wakes up. Those close to Lawler claim he's labored under the pain of several serious injuries since that night eight months ago. The grotesquely twisted cartilage in his neck is only the beginning of the 21-year veteran's physical problems: Bone spurs in his right elbow. Ripped ligaments in his right thumb. Unhealed scar tissue on his forehead. And a lower back that features several disks that threaten to break away from the rest of his spinal column.

Recently, a pair of prominent doctors have gone public with their findings: If Lawler doesn't take some time off to allow his injuries to heal, he could be crippled at any moment.

"There's a large amount of off-kilter cartilage in Lawler's neck," explained Dr. Lee Sammons, a Memphis doctor, as he pointed to an X-ray of Lawler's upper back. "A blow to this region could easily snap any of these fragile bones. Surgery? Not really necessary at this time. Rest? Absolutely imperative."

"If I were Lawler, I would've retired a year ago," echoed Dr. Jacob Muchnick, a sports chiropractor who has consulted Lawler often during the past five years. "Some fans in Memphis think Lawler is a hero for continuing his career when he's hurt, but I don't concur. I think he's being very unwise."

That's the opinion of many of Lawler's closest friends as well. Jeff Jarrett, who held the USWA tag team title with Lawler for five weeks in February and March, couldn't believe the sheer agony that Jerry was putting himself through.

"He'd never mention what pain



Embry's constant punches (above) and piledrivers (below) have wreaked havoc on Lawler's insides. One doctor has even advised Lawler to retire, or at least take a very long rest.



he was in," recalled Jarrett, "but I could see what he was going through. Constant heat on his neck, ice on his elbow. After one match, he was in such distress that I thought he was going to black

out in the locker room. Such stubborn pride. He never talked of taking some time off. Inside, though, I knew he was in his own private hell."

*(Continued on page 62)*





## H O T L I N E

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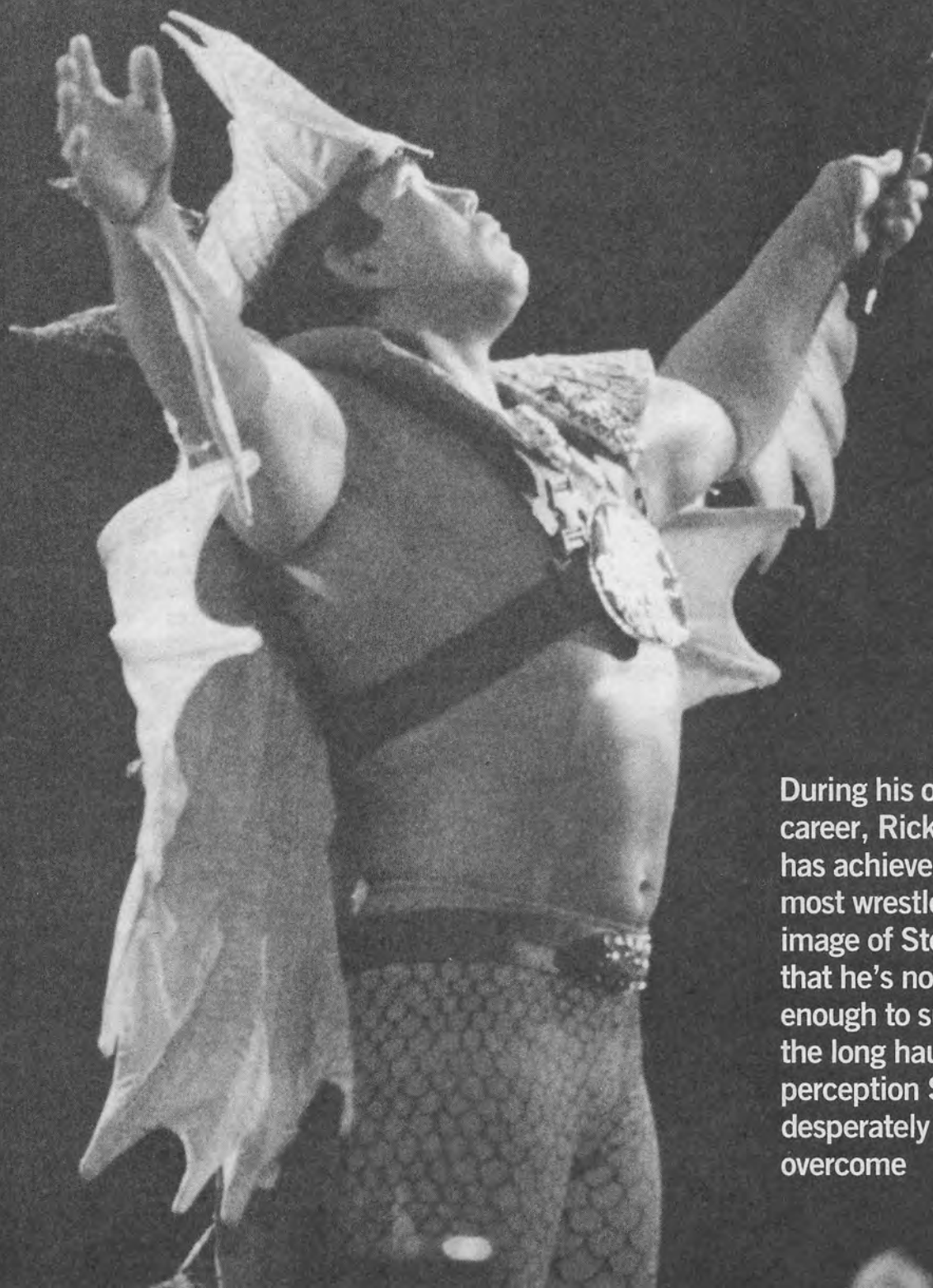


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# ***“The Dragon” On Fire!***



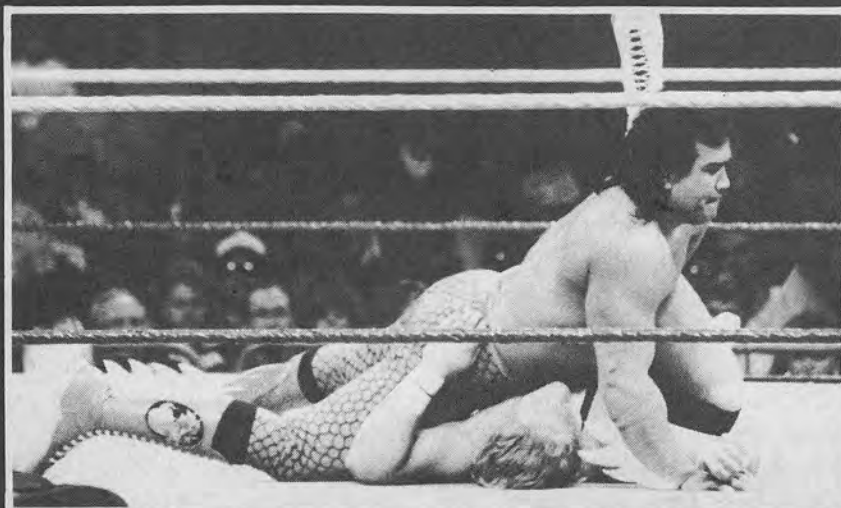
During his outstanding career, Rick Steamboat has achieved more than most wrestlers. But the image of Steamboat is that he's not tough enough to succeed over the long haul. It's a perception Steamboat is desperately trying to overcome





Despite his new costume, Rick Steamboat still possesses the sensational flying bodypress (above) that scores him easy pinfall victories (bottom).

# RICK STEAMBOAT'S BURNING DESIRE TO CHANGE HIS "WIMPY" IMAGE



By Dave Rosenbaum

**H**ERE'S A RESUME of machismo: martial arts expert, former WWF Intercontinental champion, former WCW World champion, three-time former WCW World tag team champion, former U.S. champion, conquerer of wrestling legends, husband to a beautiful wife and son, owner of his own gym, successful throughout the world.

When he walks down the street, women notice his striking good looks. When he takes his shirt off, most men wish they had his body. Few men in the sport's history have compiled such a record of excellence.

Rick Steamboat has.

So what's he fighting for in the WWF?

Self-respect.

Is it possible to become *too* good? Is it possible to do the right things *too* often? Steamboat, though one of the world's greatest wrestlers and most dangerous men, seems to have an image problem.

It started in the WWF, when Steamboat captured the I-C title from Randy Savage in 1987's Match of the Year, only to lose it two months later to the unheralded



Steamboat has been more aggressive against the likes of Haku (above). That attitude is in contrast to his days in WCW, when his wife and child accompanied him to the ring (below).

Honky Tonk Man. As Honky Tonk smirked, Steamboat's image took a beating. People said his reign was so short because he didn't have the guts to dig down deep and wrestle all-out night after night.

His image later took an even worse beating under even more unusual circumstances. Steamboat's victory over Ric Flair for the WCW World title, and their subsequent matches, will go down in history as some of the greatest ever. Flair and Steamboat often battled furiously for 40 or 50 minutes a night. They fought to the brink of exhaustion. "The Dragon" eventually lost the title to Flair, but that's not what hurt his image.

What hurt was the presence of his wife, Bonnie, and his son, Rick Jr., at every match.

While Flair walked to the ring surrounded by a host of beautiful women, Steamboat was always surrounded by his family. It was *too* sweet. It was too much of a contrast with the rough-and-tumble action in the ring that invariably followed.

Flair often poked fun at Steamboat and his entourage. The fans, though mostly on Steamboat's side,



seemed to agree with Flair. Steamboat, once again, wasn't displaying the main attribute he needed to remain the champion: mental toughness.

It's hard to believe anyone can accuse Steamboat of lacking mental toughness. He has displayed it in the ring time and again. His

dedication to and mastery of the martial arts—which are as much mental as they are physical—proves that there is nothing wrong with Steamboat as an athlete or a human being.

And there isn't. But Steamboat knows his image is lacking. He would like to be respected wherever he goes. So, in his current stint in the WWF, Steamboat has dedicated himself to wiping out his "wimpy" image.

Steamboat wants to be known as a tough guy.

He has taken his nickname, "The Dragon," one step further. Now he comes to the ring wearing a dragon outfit and spitting fire. His wife and son often attend Steamboat's matches, but they remain in the stands, unmentioned and unnoticed.

Steamboat has realized that the man who goes it alone is more respected than the man who does something with the help of family and friends. And while Steamboat is anything but a loner, that is the image he wishes to portray.

Has this new attitude led to a more intense Steamboat? Indeed, it





Winning the WCW World title from Ric Flair (above) and the Intercontinental belt from Randy Savage (below) helped establish Steamboat as one of the sport's great competitors.



seems as if Steamboat is more focused in the ring than he's been in a long time. At the same time, Steamboat has added a bit more violence to his repertoire.

Steamboat could always get by on judo kicks, scientific moves, and simply outlasting his opponents. But now Steamboat wants to put his opponents away quickly. In looking at "The Dragon" today, it's not out of the question to claim that he wants to *hurt* them.

This is a drastic change for a man who always favored finesse

over violence.

Over the next several months, we will see whether the new Steamboat is an effective Steamboat. Is "The Dragon" just blowing smoke, or has he finally found the ingredient he needs to become an enduring champion?

There is little doubt that Steamboat, despite his long absences from the ring, is still a dangerous wrestler. Time away from the ring always seems to have a positive effect on him. It clears his mind and freshens his body.

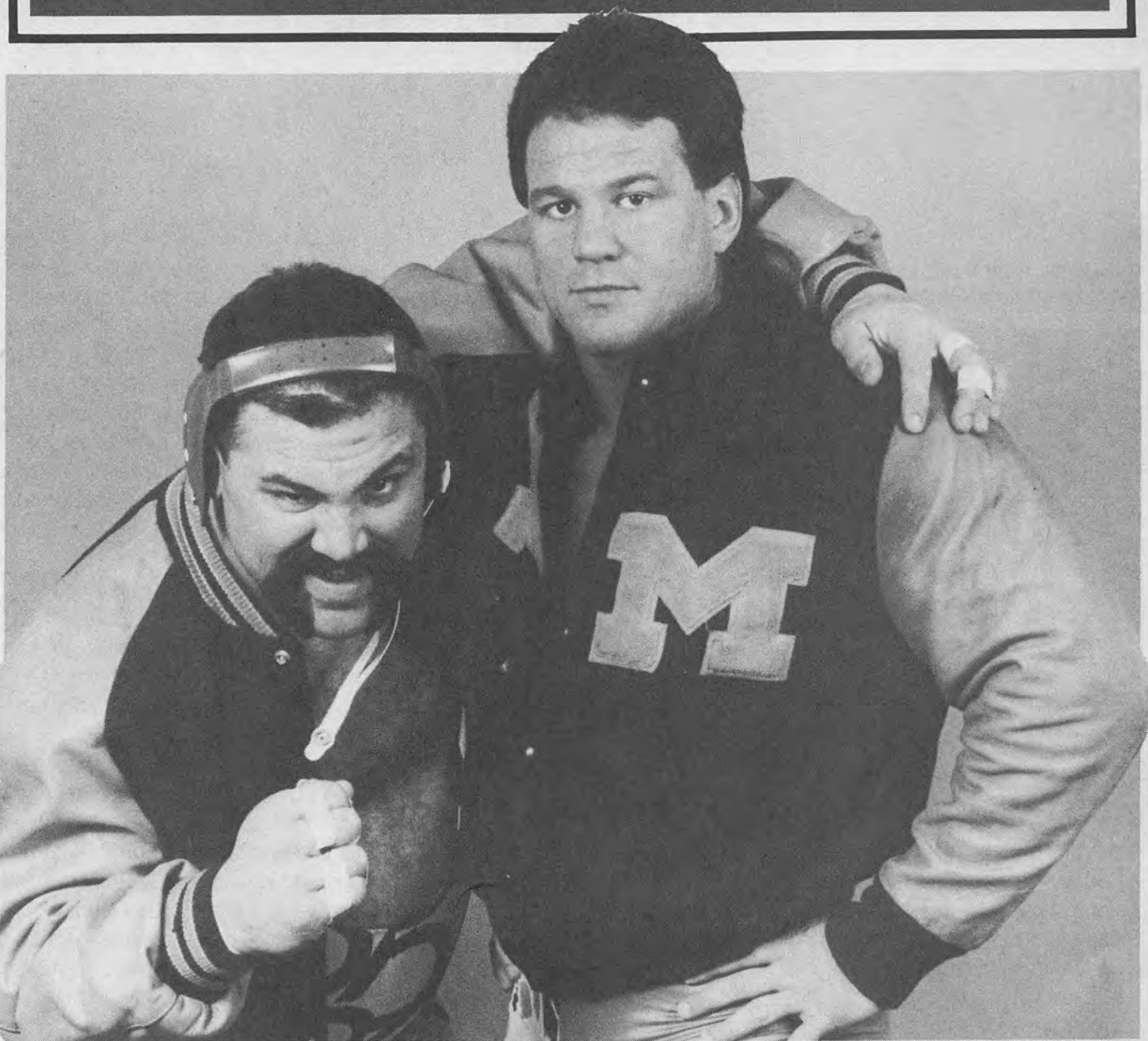
At his best, Steamboat is a legitimate contender to any title in the sport. Steamboat, however, must be careful that his new style does not damage his old strengths. He can be aggressive, but he must be aggressive at the right times. He must not let his mind—his most effective weapon—get bogged down with his quest to prove his toughness.

Steamboat cannot be blamed for trying to eradicate the one strike against him. He would like to be remembered as a perfect wrestler, not a man who had all the gifts but none of the toughness.

He will need to be tough to defeat I-C champion Curt Hennig. "Mr. Perfect" and Steamboat are nearly equals in scientific knowledge and execution. Steamboat has an edge in martial arts; Hennig has the edge in the mental aspect of the game: "Mr. Perfect" knows how to use the rules, and there is nothing he won't do to win.

That's what Steamboat must become: a man who will do anything to win. He must push his body and mind to the limit. Only by doing so can he push his "wimpy" image out of the minds of fans—and off the pages of wrestling history books—for all time. □

# ARE THE STEINERS GETTING *TOO COCKY* FOR THEIR OWN GOOD?



Having established themselves as *the* elite tag team in the WCW, Rick and Scott Steiner are more popular and confident than ever. The worst mistake they can make now is to start believing those people who tell them they can't be beaten





**By Kostya Kennedy**

Rick Steiner flips Barry Windham (above left) and suplexes Michael Hayes (above right). Scott Steiner works over Hayes (below). The Steiners must beware of overconfidence.

IT IS LATE-April and Rick and Scott Steiner are training. Dozens of close friends and a few reporters (but, at the request of the Steiners, no photographers) are on hand as the celebrated brothers execute, improve, and perfect one sensational move after another.

The victims are a pair of willing sparring partners who happily give their bodies to the Steiner cause. Scott whips through an exquisite "Frankensteiner"—the weapon that floored Kensuke Sasaki in Tokyo and garnered the IWGP tag team title for the Steiners—and the friends applaud their approval. A "tilt-a-whirl" suplex is next. Then Rick unveils a thunderous "Steinerline" clothesline that ends the day of work.

The Steiners saunter off the mat. "Better than ever," says one friend as he slaps Scott on the back. "No one can beat you guys, absolutely no one," gushes another. Scott grins and pumps his fist. "Ain't that the truth!" agrees Rick with a grin.



Jim Garvin clotheslines Scott (right) and Hayes slugs him (below). If the Steiners show even a hint of weakness, it can be exploited by a veteran team like The Freebirds.



Rick and Scott are dual champions who possess two of the most coveted trophies in all of wrestling: The IWGP and WCW World tag team championships. They have beaten every tag team WCW has thrown in front of them, and a few others in Japan. They are the most impressive tag team professional wrestling has seen in years, and they know it.

As Scott and Rick make their way toward the showers, they notice two large sacks of fan mail left for them during the workout by WCW officials.

"You wouldn't be so popular if you weren't special," says one onlooker.

"I don't know about that," says Scott, knowing that this situation called for modesty.

"Hey," says another, "when so many fans and wrestling experts tell you how great you are, how can you *not* believe it? Some of the most knowledgeable wrestling analysts around say that you're unbeatable, and you know what? You are! People don't just make that kind of stuff up."

No, but fans and sports analysts can get caught up in the thrill and excitement generated by a man or team. Mike Tyson was unbeatable until he encountered Buster Douglas' jab; UNLV was insurmountable until Mike Krzyzewski worked his genius; the Steiners couldn't be stopped until...

Well, no one has been able to handle the Steiners—yet. But history tells us it's only a question of who, when, and where before some team somewhere does. Everyone (except Rocky Marciano) eventually loses.

"We're not cocky," Rick says bluntly, "we're *confident*. You show me a wrestler who doesn't believe in himself, and I'll show you a loser."

For those sensitive to subtleties, there is a feeling that, despite all the enthusiasm and energy, something has changed at the





Hayes saves his manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page, from the Steiners' wrath (above). The only way Page can put down Scott is with his cane (below).



Steiner camp. Success, at it always seems to do, has satiated a portion of their hunger. They have the attitude that they cannot be beaten, which is, as Rick pointed out, crucial. But it is one thing to present that face to the public and to one's opponents; it is entirely another matter—and a dangerous one at that—to believe it deep down.

As recently as last month, when Bob Smith interviewed the Steiners for the July 1991 edition of *Inside Wrestling's* "Hotseat,"

Rick and Scott seemed properly focused. Scott in particular warned that the team couldn't rest on its laurels or take its opponents lightly. Teams like Lex Luger and Sting have to be respected and properly prepared for.

But the visit to the sparring session indicated that the Steiners are beginning to take their press clippings a little too seriously. Oh, they knew they were a fine team all along, and they boasted and predicted victories as much as anyone. But they also possessed a trace of insecurity and dissatisfaction that kept their level of intensity at the loftiest heights.

But things may have changed. They seem to relish the praise that their hangers-on offer. They seem to care more about bringing their fans out of their seats in awe than maintaining a solid game plan.

"Hey, when people come to the arenas to watch us, they want to see our big moves," Scott said. "We can't disappoint them."

What Scott fails to realize is that what would really disappoint the fans is a Steiner loss. It's fine to use the "Frankensteiner," if that's the appropriate move at any given point in a match. But using

the high-risk maneuver simply to please the fans could be a tragic mistake, though.

The champions are, quite naturally, the most-scouted wrestlers in the sport. Potential challengers spend countless hours poring through videotapes of the titleholders to find even the most minute flaw. If a veteran team such as The Freebirds, for instance, discover a pattern to the Steiners' approach, if they can predict the execution of a certain move, the advantage becomes theirs.

The Steiners, like all champions, don't have the luxury of time to study every challenger so diligently. They cannot possibly be as prepared as their opponents coming into a match. That is why attitude becomes so crucial. Remaining on top of this sport becomes a balancing act. At once, a champion must have the confidence to know that he is the best and make that confidence work for him, while simultaneously approaching each match as if he is the underdog who must go that extra yard to secure victory.

It is too early to condemn the Steiners' new attitude, or to even claim that it is a new attitude. And remember, too, that they haven't lost anything yet, and they *do* have the means to conquer any two men alive.

Yet sooner or later (and in the competitive world of wrestling, it had better be sooner!), the Steiners need to keep their blinders on and remain focused. They need to wonder whether they really are as great as everyone says. They need to doubt again, to prove to themselves night after night that they truly deserve their place in wrestling lore.

"We're the best," says Rick.

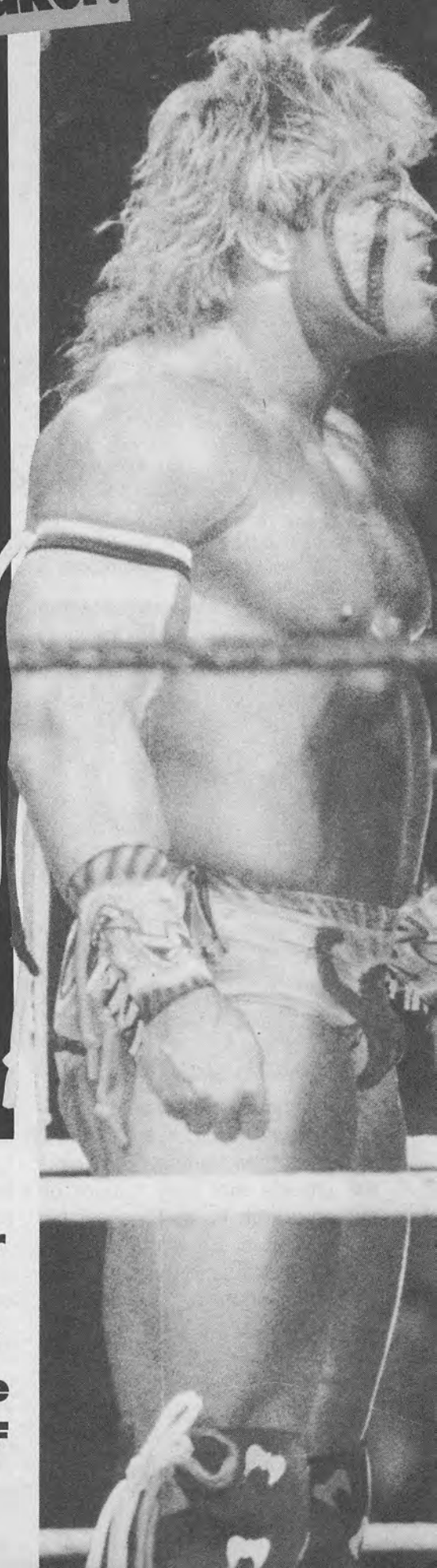
"More importantly," says Scott, "we know how to remain that way."

Many great ex-champions have felt the same way. □

**Ultimate Warrior vs. Undertaker:**

# THE FEUD THAT THREATENS TO BURY THE WWF!

**The Undertaker brings the fearsome finality of death to bear on his opponents. In a shocking incident, he nearly took life away from The Ultimate Warrior. Before long, he may wrap the entire WWF in his deadly shroud!**







*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

Has The Ultimate Warrior ever faced a more fearsome opponent than The Undertaker, the man who almost smothered him to death in a coffin?

**By Kostya Kennedy**

**T**HERE COMES A day in many lives when an ominous knock sounds upon the front door. When the door is opened, a figure cloaked in gray and bearing a sickle flashes a deadly smile. "Time's up," the hooded figure croaks, "you're mine now."

It may not happen that way for all of us, or even most of us. Death can come less blatantly, less clearly, and without the visible presence of a grim and morbid reaper.

But for The Ultimate Warrior, who at last check was alive and

healthy, the first knock has already come. He has met a ruthless representative of the Grim Reaper—a frightening man billing himself as The Undertaker—and managed to stave him off.

Just barely.

Warrior's first brush with the WWF's messenger of death came in Las Vegas, Nevada. Warrior wound up in a coffin; the Undertaker and his grisly manager, Paul Bearer, left the scene bearing evil and satisfied grins.

It took the determined effort of

several men to rescue Warrior from his awful plight. He was barely conscious and barely breathing when they finally opened the casket lid; if referee Dave Hebner wasn't skilled at CPR, Warrior might never have made it.

Now Warrior's breaths come quickly when he is confronted by The Undertaker. There is feud of monumental proportions brewing, one that reeks of death in many permutations.

Bursting onto the WWF scene after a moderately successful career as "Mean" Mark Callous in WCW, The Undertaker easily worked his way through veterans like Big Bossman and Jimmy Snuka and is now directing his macabre wrath at the federation's best. He is a solid wrestler, strong and dangerous, and his ambitions are lofty. The Undertaker isn't content to merely beat his opponents, he aims to bury them. Perhaps literally. And if no one stops him, Undertaker will be the only one standing when the rest of the WWF is lying motionless at his feet.

"Because of his attitude and his disregard for human life, The Undertaker poses a serious threat," said WWF expert Thomas Illiard. "He is not only dangerous in regards to the well-being of every individual in the WWF, he could genuinely damage the federation as a whole. The last thing the WWF needs is a killer, a death-monger, so to speak, as its champion."

This is what makes the Warrior-Undertaker feud so crucial. The welfare of the WWF is at stake. Even as Hulk Hogan reigns in his third stint as WWF World champion, many around the federation believe that Warrior is the best wrestler in the sport today. He is phenomenally strong and deceptively quick; if he can improve his stamina and expand his repertoire—even slightly—it might simply be a matter of time before he regains the title and establishes himself as the WWF's first post-



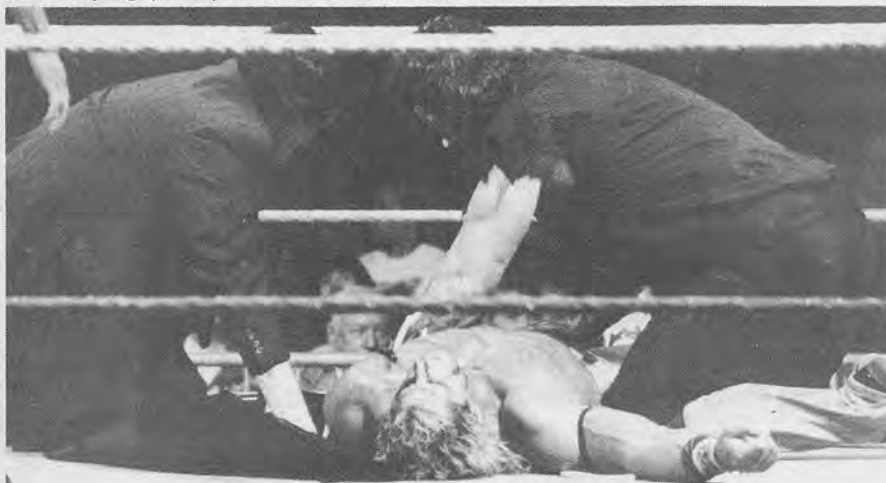
When it comes to power, the Warrior has the advantage with moves like the clothesline (above), but Undertaker could have a major psychological edge (below).







After a tombstone piledriver (above), Undertaker and his manager, Paul Bearer, put Warrior in a body bag (below). If Warrior doesn't stop Undertaker, who will?



Hogan megastar.

With Hogan's best days behind him and Randy Savage still looking for reinstatement, Warrior appears to be on the verge of forming a long and lasting relationship with the WWF World title belt. Yet death might do them part before the marriage has a chance to begin.

"The Undertaker-Warrior feud

could be disastrous," Pilliard assessed. "If Undertaker can edge Warrior out of the title picture, he has a pretty clear road to the belt. Considering how successful Earthquake was in his initial attacks against the 'Hulkster' last year, I don't know if Hogan has what it takes to keep a maniac like this at bay. If Warrior gets beaten, the fed-

eration could wind up in the hands of people like Sgt. Slaughter, Earthquake, and, of course, Undertaker himself."

Though Warrior is physically the stronger of the two, Undertaker is no weakling and has at least one obvious advantage: fear. Whether Warrior admits it or not, there is no doubt that his psyche was frazzled by the nightmarish coffin incident. In one subsequent match, Undertaker drove Warrior into unconsciousness with a vicious tombstone-piledriver, then shoved him into a body bag! That simply shouldn't happen to a wrestler of Warrior's talent ... unless, of course, his mind is troubled by fear and apprehension.

"You can't really blame the Warrior if he's a little uneasy when it comes to facing Undertaker," said one WWF fan favorite close to the former World champion. "Look, Warrior went through a terrible, frightening experience. I think it'll be almost impossible for him to get that incident out of his mind. He's too proud to admit it, but from what I've seen, he's could be wrestling with fear. He's definitely wrestling tentatively, as if he doesn't know how to handle himself."

For the sake of his own future—and for the sake of the WWF itself—Warrior needs to push his fears away. Being placed inside a body bag only makes it more difficult, but if Warrior doesn't rebound soon it may be too late. There's no telling when The Undertaker will make his final call.

"At this point it's pretty much do-or-die for Warrior and the WWF," Pilliard concluded. "The Undertaker is getting more powerful with each passing day."

We see the Grim Reaper on the highway and in the news. He is in every war and every plague. He's in the WWF now, battling its strongest defense.

The federation and The Ultimate Warrior are fighting for their very lives. □

# HOTSEAT

## DUSTIN RHODES

### "I'M NOT AFRAID TO BE ON MY OWN ANYMORE!"

**I**T WASN'T THE most glorious way to bow out. When Dusty Rhodes and his son, Dustin, lost to Ted DiBiase and Virgil at the WWF's Royal Rumble in January, it meant more than just a disheartening loss. After the defeat, Dusty announced that he was retiring from active competition after 22 spectacular years in the sport.

For the millions of fans of the "American Dream," it was a crushing blow. But fans—and Dusty—could take solace in the fact that 22-year-old Dustin would keep the family tradition of excellence.

The elder Rhodes left the WWF to become a color commentator for WCW, but Dustin remained in the WWF for several more weeks. In late-February, Dustin decided to reenter WCW, where he competed in 1989.

Things are vastly different in 1991 than they were two years ago. No longer will Dustin have his father by his side. Today, "The Natural" is fending for himself more than ever before. Even when Dustin began his career in Florida in 1988, Dusty was there to run off the rulebreakers who lusted to destroy his offspring. Now,

with his father busy at various arenas providing commentary, Dustin is forced to compete totally on his own.

And he's flourishing. Rhodes has been undefeated since returning to WCW, scoring victories over Larry Zbyszko, Terrence Taylor, and Dutch

“

**Look at my record. I'm beating everyone they put in front of me, and I'm getting the job done alone.**

”

*Mantel. His toughest test, however, may be getting through this interview with the world's most famous Rhodes-basher—Associate Editor Eddie Ellner.*

**Q:** I can't believe what's happening here. Here's little Dustin Rhodes—well, you're not so little at 6'4½", are you? I guess I should say

young Dustin Rhodes and I are finally alone for an interview. I don't know whether to welcome you or have security boot you right out of here. I really owe Peters one for giving me this assignment.

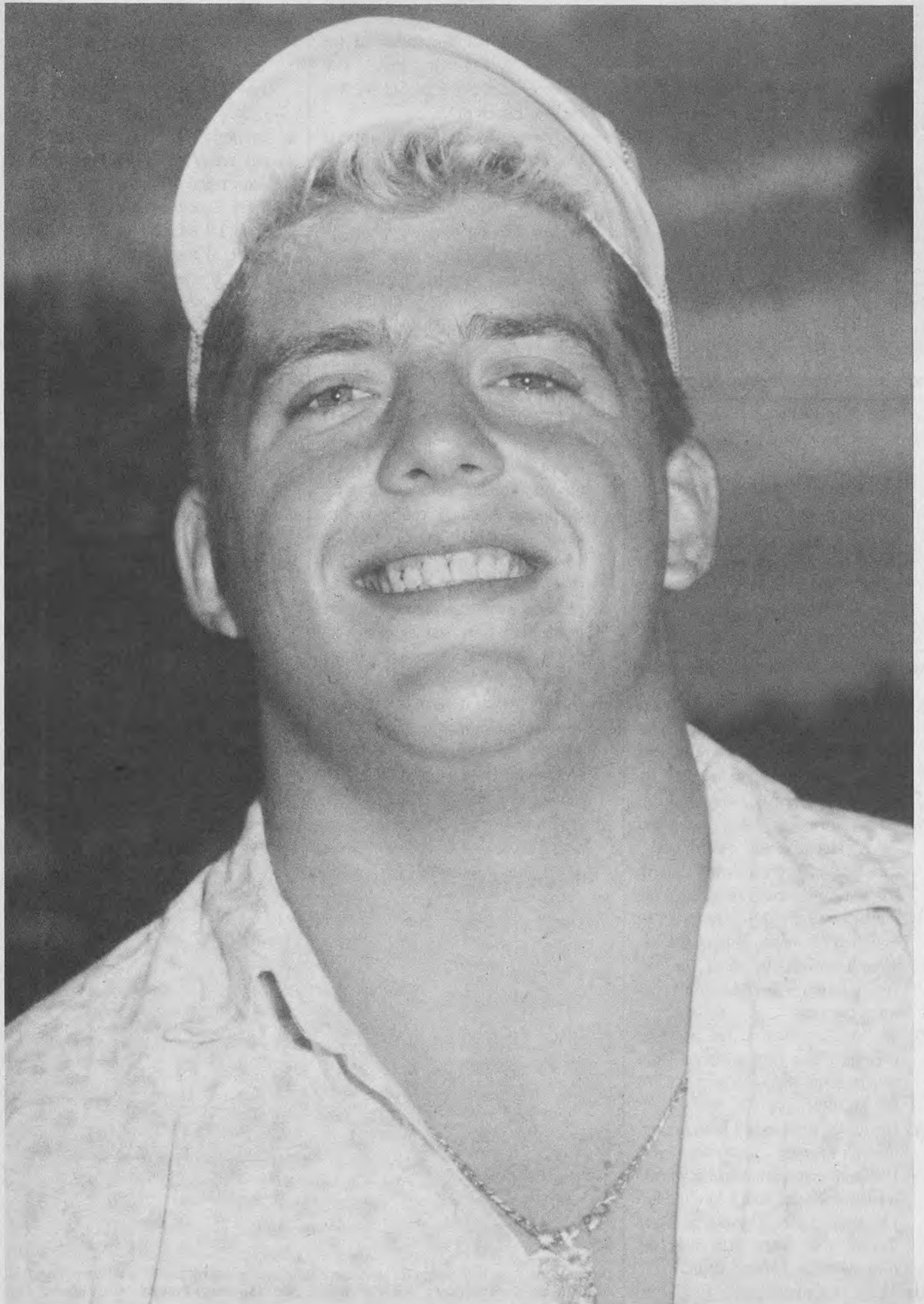
**A:** I know what your major malfunction is, Ellner. You've been shielded by the freedom of the press for seven years. You get to sit on your duff in your office putting Dusty Rhodes down, but the few times you've actually met him you've run from him like the coward you are. Well, you're not going *anywhere* until I say what I have to say. And you're going to sit there and take down every quote. Got it?

**Q:** Yeah, yeah, whatever you want. Let's just get this over with. I'm amazed you don't have your dad leaning over your shoulder coaching you with your answers.

**A:** That's where you're wrong. I don't need to have my father around for *anything* anymore.

**Q:** What's this? Junior has the keys to the car, so he's a real man now, eh? I'll bet you've even started to shave.







“

**Arn Anderson's TV title seems ripe for the picking now. I mean, how often does he defend that belt?**

”

**A:** Watch your mouth, Ellner. What I'm trying to tell you is that I'm not afraid to be on my own anymore. That really wasn't always the case in the past, but now I'm on my own and doing just great. Take a look at my record lately. I'm beating everyone they put in front of me, and I'm getting the job done alone. If you're trying to say that I need Dusty Rhodes around to call the shots for me, you're wrong—just like you've always been.

**Q:** So you say. But a few victories over guys like Dutch Mantel can't convince me that you're ready for the big time, pal.

**A:** Obviously you haven't been keepin' up with me very closely, have you? I've been getting matched with better competition, and I haven't lost yet. From Larry Zbyszko to Terry Taylor, I've more than held my own with the best of them.

**Q:** Those *are* some pretty fine wres-

tlers, especially Zbyszko. But they're still not the cream of the crop of WCW, are they? You haven't faced Sting or Sid Vicious or Lex Luger or . . .

**A:** Or *what*? What do you expect? I've only been in WCW for a few months. It wouldn't be fair to all the other contenders to rush right in and take on the championship-caliber guys. I'm much happier taking things step by step. Once I get through with Zbyszko, Taylor, and those guys, I'll be ready to contend for a title. Everything will come when it comes.

**Q:** Is that *your* plan or is it ol' Dusty's plan? Who's calling the shots here?

**A:** (*shouting*) You know, I ought to knock you right off that bench, not only for that comment, but for all the nasty things you've written about my dad. Get this through your head, Ellner: *I'm* calling the shots now. I make my matches, I plan my strategies, and I compete in the ring. Sure, earlier in my career it was great to have my father around for guidance. Who wouldn't want to have a three-time World champion teaching him the ropes?

**Q:** Hey, don't be so testy! You have a thinner skin than a frank at a mi-

nor-league ballpark. But even you have to admit that wherever you went, Dusty wasn't far behind. It was that way for almost three years.

**A:** (*calmer*) True, and like I say, it was pretty cool. But I want to be known as my *own* man. I'm a finely tuned athlete, always have been. I'll even let you in on a little secret: When I started my career in 1988, I was going to bill myself under a different name.

**Q:** You're kidding! I don't buy it for a minute.

**A:** Think what you want, Ellner. I really was worried that I wouldn't be able to live up to the constant comparisons to my father, so I was considering competing under a mask or using a different name. I didn't want to attract the wrong kind of attention. There's precedent for it—Barry Windham is Blackjack Mulligan's son, but he used the Windham name to avoid the inevitable comparisons. Lots of other second-generation stars have done it.

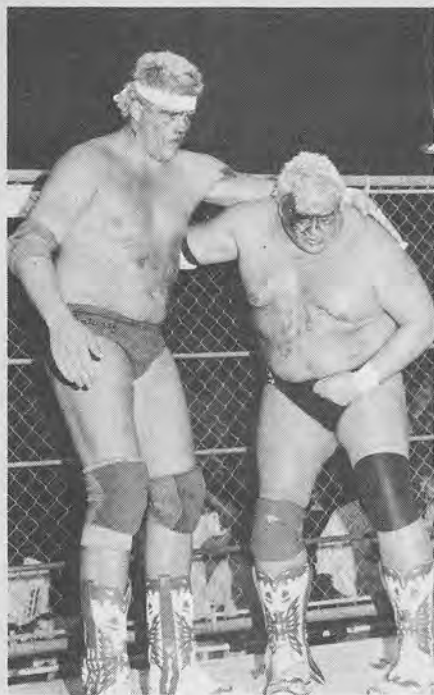
**Q:** I can only imagine what name you might have used. Let's see—Dustin Dope? Rancid Rhodes? The possibilities are mind-boggling!

**A:** Very funny. But as you can see, I



Dustin Rhodes, a third-year pro, says he considered wrestling under a different name in order to avoid comparisons with his famous dad, "American Dream" Dusty Rhodes.





Early in his career, Dustin frequently had help from his father. That help is gone now that Dusty is retired from the ring. And that's just fine with Dustin.

used my real name anyway. And as things have worked out, I'm glad I did it. Now that I'm establishing myself, very few people are looking toward me and saying, "There's Dusty's kid," anyway. I'm making it on my own abilities. Just ask anybody who's been on the receiving end of one of my dropkicks or elbowdrops.

**Q:** Since I *have* to conduct this interview, I guess I'd better ask you the stock questions. Let's say you continue to keep on winning. What are your goals? What do you want to achieve?

**A:** That's easy. I'd really like to go after a belt, eventually. There's quite a few of them that I believe I'm capable of winning. Arn Anderson's TV title seems ripe for the picking right now. I mean, how often does he defend that belt? In addition, the U.S. tag team title seems pretty inviting. As we speak, it's up for grabs, and Rick Morton and I have been doing very well as a team.

**Q:** Yeah, I should've predicted that. It figures someone like you would take up with a has-been like Morton.

**A:** Typical. My father and The Rock 'n' Roll Express have ranked one and two on your hate list for years, eh? But as much as you've griped about them, Morton and Robert Gibson formed one of the best teams ever. Four World tag team titles is a record that most teams dream of matching. With Gibby out of commission for a while, I like the way Morton and I have blended in the ring. He takes to the air while I work the opponents over on the mat. That's quite a dichotomy of styles, but we're confusing all the other teams. Keep an eye out for us, Eddie.

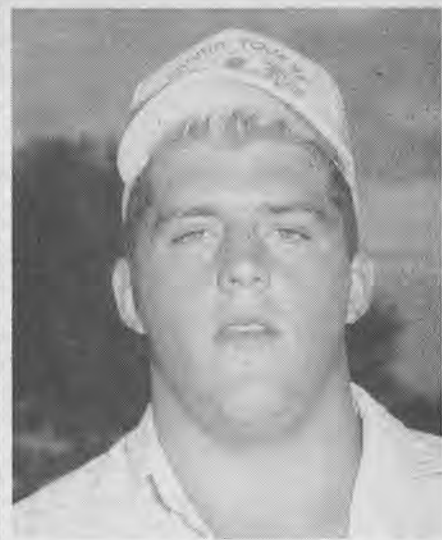
**Q:** Sorry, I'll be busy. But I have to admit you've shown more of a brain in this interview than I figured you would.

**A:** *Huh?* A compliment? You must be setting me up for something.

**Q:** Not at all. It's just that not once during this discussion have you



Dustin says he's content to compete against mid-level competition until he feels he's ready for bigger matches.



“

**I could give [Ric] Flair one hell of a match. Once I hit him with my bionic elbow, he'd be finished.**

”

mentioned WCW World champion Ric Flair. I'm glad to see you realize you wouldn't stand a chance against him.

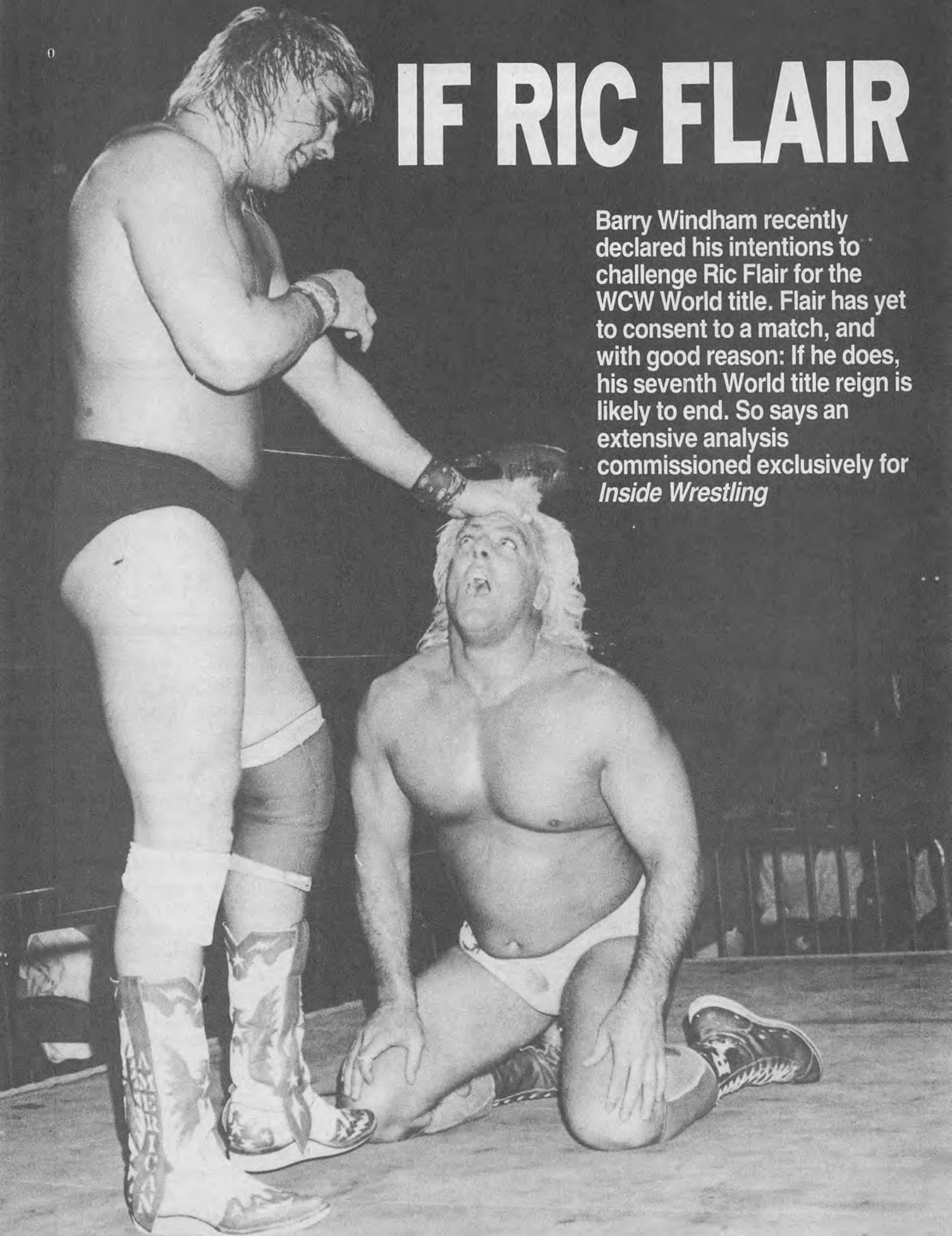
**A:** All in good time. You obviously don't know much about the mind of a wrestler. It is every professional's dream to someday hold the World title. I don't care who you talk to, they all want the same thing. I have to admit that it's my ultimate goal, too. Personally, I think I could give Flair one hell of a match right now. I'm stronger and bigger than he is, and I have more than enough stamina to keep up with him. Once I hit him with my bionic elbow, he'd be finished.

**Q:** *Bionic elbow?* Jeez, I have to look forward to another decade of hearing about bionic elbows and the "American Dream"? I think I'm gonna be sick.

**A:** *(laughs)* If you will, Ellner, if you will. The new era of a new "Dream" has just begun! □

# IF RIC FLAIR

Barry Windham recently declared his intentions to challenge Ric Flair for the WCW World title. Flair has yet to consent to a match, and with good reason: If he does, his seventh World title reign is likely to end. So says an extensive analysis commissioned exclusively for *Inside Wrestling*





**Exclusive  
Analysis**

# WRESTLES BARRY WINDHAM, HE'LL LOSE!

By Craig Peters

**T**HE LOOK OF exhaustion was evident on both wrestlers' faces. Sweat poured down their bodies and drenched the mat, diluting the blood that had been spilled earlier in the match. The ringside timekeeper looked at his stopwatch: 56 minutes had passed, and a three-count had yet to be scored.

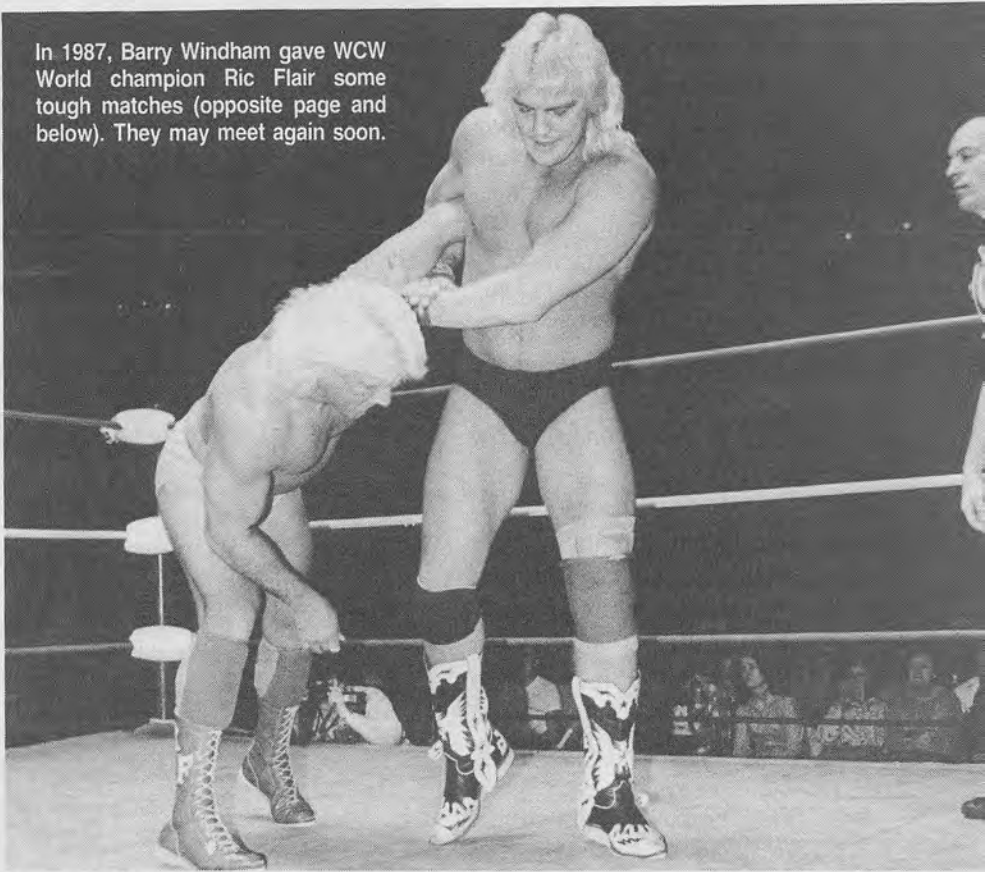
Ric Flair stared deeply into the eyes of the younger, faster, more powerful, better-conditioned man standing across the ring. A look of fear flashed across the "Nature Boy's" face. It was only there for an instant, then it was gone; there was more important business at hand. This was no time to allow the body to give in to emotion.

Flair quickly surveyed the situation. His opponent was tired, too, and both men glared at each other wondering how long they would have to catch a breath before the other made the first move.

Then both men decided at once to make the first move.

The ring exploded with activity. Flair unleashed a series of chops that had fans in the cheap seats cringing from their force. The men criss-crossed

In 1987, Barry Windham gave WCW World champion Ric Flair some tough matches (opposite page and below). They may meet again soon.



the ring. Flair was brought to the mat by a legsweep takedown. The "Nature Boy" retaliated with a figure-four leglock. The timekeeper kept a sharp eye on the second hand of his stopwatch.

Moments later, the bell rang. Sixty minutes had elapsed, a pinfall had not been scored, and Flair had retained his World title.

Barry Windham, sweat and blood



thing. But if you're to take the study a step further, and actually hypothesize the two wrestlers inside the ring, you have to take all sorts of intangible qualities into account.

"Additionally," Saks continued, "each of those 10 categories must be given a different level of importance as it applies to a multitude of individual match situations. In the *Wrestling Superstars* study, each category was given equal weight when considering the overall ranking. While that's interesting from a purely objective view on paper against an abstract opponent, it's impractical when considering a real-time match against a specific foe."

As a result, some categories in

matting his hair, grinned an evil grin that said: "I'll get you next time."

So went a Flair-Windham contest in late-1986, and there were several next times. Many of them went to grueling 60-minute time-limit draws; a few reached the incredible 90-minute mark.

And now, as Flair holds his seventh World championship and Windham is as hungry for title shots as he was 4½ years ago, the question is posed: What would happen if these two magnificent athletes, former soulmates in the rule-breaking cooperative known as The Four Horsemen, clashed again?

The answer, unfortunately for the man wearing the gold, is that a new champion is likely to be crowned.

That's the conclusion of an extensive computer analysis conducted by *Inside Wrestling*.

We began with the 10-point analysis of each man made in the August 1991 edition of *Wrestling Superstars*, a study that graded each grappler on a 10-point scale in terms of 10 different categories. Flair ranked number two out of 20 wrestlers with a total of 93 points; Windham came in eighth with 90.5 points.

So if Flair beat Windham in the study, how could we say Windham would beat Flair in the ring?

"These kinds of analyses are interesting," noted *Inside Wrestling* Associate Publisher Stu Saks. "A simple 10-point scale in 10 categories is one

In categories like speed, power, and conditioning, Windham has the edge over Flair, though Flair does have the advantage in quality of opposition.





which Flair excels with regard to defense, conditioning, power, and Windham—quality of opposition, for example—aren't considered as important as others in which Windham is considered to be better than Flair—

speed. "There were also many factors we considered that weren't involved in the *Wrestling Superstars* study," said Dr.



Chances are that given an extended series of bouts, Windham would win the crown from the "Nature Boy"—assuming, of course, that Flair receives no outside help.



Frederick Mitlitsky, a California computer engineer who programmed the Flair-Windham study for *Inside Wrestling*. "Flair entered the sport seven years earlier than Windham. Now, while that gives him a slight edge in experience, it also carries with it seven additional years of physical punishment.

"There are many, myself included, who feel that Flair is past his prime as a wrestler," Mitlitsky continued. "Not far past his prime, mind you; he's certainly able to defend his title against formidable foes like Tatsumi Fujinami and El Gigante. But just far enough past it to take the edge off the style that helped him be named Wrestler of the Decade for the 1980s. As for Windham, his schedule over the past five years has been relatively easy compared to Flair's. His body hasn't taken as much punishment, and his hunger for the belt he never held is arguably greater than Flair's desire to maintain a grasp on his seventh championship."

The final analysis provided by our computer study indicated that the gap in skills between Windham and Flair, considerable in 1987, has narrowed considerably since that time. Today, assuming no outside interference (a major assumption from the "Nature Boy's" point of view), Flair would fall to Windham in a lengthy match, approximately 52 minutes in duration, following the absorption of a final furious flurry of bulldogs, clotheslines, and suplexes.

"I'm well aware of Dr. Mitlitsky and his work," said WCW computer expert Alexandra York, "and I think his analysis is a remarkably insightful one."

"Hogwash!" responded Flair when told of the study. "Simply more fodder for your rag of a magazine. Give me Windham in the ring, one on one. Then we'll see the truth of the matter. Many have tried to analyze and decipher the 'Nature Boy,' but it all boils down to this: To be the man, you have to beat the man. Quite simply, Windham doesn't have what it takes to be the man. Not now, not in 1986 or 1987, and not ever. *Whooooo!*" □

**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

# ONE ON ONE



***"After the way I humiliated you in arm-wrestling, I'm positive I can beat you in a regulation wrestling match."***

**—Missy Hyatt**

**T**HERE HAS ALWAYS been a sense of competition between WCW commentators Missy Hyatt and Paul E. Dangerously. But when competitiveness is accompanied by mutual disrespect and a willingness to go to any lengths to embarrass the other, the result can be explosive.

On January 30 at WCW's Clash of the Champions XIV, Hyatt and Dangerously engaged in an arm-wrestling contest. Dangerously approached the event with all the chauvinist swagger that Bobby Riggs took to his famous 1973 tennis match with Billie Jean King—and found himself faced with the same result: defeat. Just as the match was to begin, Hyatt removed her warmup jacket to reveal an outfit that featured a deeply plunging neckline; Dangerously's arm was pinned in one second.

More recently (and perhaps by way of revenge for the Clash incident), Dangerously shut Hyatt out of an important interview situation. Both commentators were supposed to speak with WCW World champion Ric Flair. Just before the interview was to take place, Hyatt was presented with a note stating that there was an emergency she needed to attend to. Dangerously conducted the interview himself. Later, when it was learned that Paul E. had sent the note himself, Hyatt physically assaulted the self-proclaimed "Psycho Yuppie."

As we go to press, both Hyatt and Dangerously have expressed wishes for WCW to sanction a series of matches between the two during the upcoming Great American Bash cards. Meanwhile, *Inside Wrestling* had no difficulty getting

these two antagonists to agree to square off . . . "One On One."

## **PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY:**

Now we're on my turf, airhead. The telephone. You won't be able to attack me, you won't be able to pull any stupid stunts, just a battle of wits. Except that it's a one-sided affair: I'm talking to a half-wit.

## **MISSY HYATT:**

Sticks and stones, Paul. You're a wimp, and all a wimp is good at is words. All you can do is walk around insulting people, but when someone offers you a fair fight, you lose every time. How

about our arm-wrestling contest, Paul? How'd it feel getting beaten by a woman? Gee, I must weigh 120 pounds at best!

**PD:** Right, and half of that is in your chest which, if you'd kept it covered, would have kept our arm-wrestling match fair and I would have won the way I ought to have won and . . .

**MH:** You sound flustered, Paul. Does even the *memory* of . . .

**PD:** I don't want to talk about the Clash incident, you brainless bimbo. Why don't we discuss the fact that you're so stupid that you paid attention to a bogus note and missed one of the big-



# N ONE



***"It's going to be a pleasure to pay you back for attacking me after that [Ric] Flair interview. I can't wait for the Bash!"***  
—Paul E. Dangerously

gest interviews of the year!

**MH:** Leave it to you to take a serious matter and turn it into a joke. Hey, when someone comes out during an interview and hands me a note saying my father is gravely ill, I *have* to investigate it. Sure enough, that note was bogus—the most bogus guy in wrestling wrote it, and that's you. You just wanted to have that interview with Flair all to yourself, so you came up with this hair-brained scheme. You really make me sick.

**PD:** I would think that simply looking in the mirror would be enough to send you to the medicine cabinet. How *do* you put on your make-

up, anyway? Spatula or putty knife?

**MH:** You're one to talk about looks. With that beard you're trying to grow, you look like Donnie Wahlberg of New Kids On The Block after some hormone shots. Why can't you just face up to it: You're a little boy in a wrestling world filled with *real* men.

**PD:** You wouldn't know a real man if one came up to you and handed you a gift certificate for a free facial! If you knew anything about real men, you wouldn't have Kevin Arnold's big brother spending his allowance to take you to Spago every time you're in

Los Angeles.

**MH:** That's pretty rich, coming from a man who can't get a date—unless he *buys* one, that is. I've seen you hanging around "Diamond" Dallas Page's Diamond Dolls lately, and it's disgusting. Obviously, you'll plunge waist-deep into a sewer for a cheap thrill, but I am a woman of taste and class. And keep your nose out of my business. What I do away from wrestling is my business and no one else's.

**PD:** When it hits all the tabloids, it's *everybody's* business, but that's your problem and my entertainment. And speaking of entertainment, it's going to be a pleasure to pay you back for attacking me after that Flair interview. I can't *wait* for the Great American Bash to get underway!

**MH:** I'm certainly not worried. After the way I humiliated you in arm-wrestling, I'm positive I can beat you in a regulation wrestling match. I probably won't even break a nail! Shouldn't be hard doing away with a little goat tick like you.

**PD:** You ought to know plenty about ticks. I was *wondering* why you cut that mop-top of yours so short. What's the matter, the flea shampoo didn't do the job?

**MH:** *Oooh*, now you're getting personal. I *hate* it when you get personal . . .

**PD:** Say, there's something else I wanted to ask you as long as we're here. How's your work on that junior high school equivalency diploma coming?

**MH:** (*sniffing*) Shut up, Paul, just shut up! You just can't take it because I'm a better broadcaster than you are. You're just jealous of me!

**PD:** Listen to you! Stop crying, you . . . you . . . *awwwww*, you make me sick. I don't know why I bother putting up with you, I ought to just go to the WCW brass and . . .

**MH:** Try to pay 'em off? Forget it, bub. I'm hanging up now, but remember this: I'm going to kick your little butt, and once again prove you're a mama's boy. After you're gone, I'll get all the *good* interviews to myself—and The Danger Zone will be The Missy Zone. I can't wait! □

# WAR GAMES



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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

### PRETTY DISGUSTING

Where the heck did these Pretty Young Things ("On Assignment," June 1991) come from? They're disgusting, they're gross, and they don't belong anywhere near the ring! James and Frederick are, plain and simple, disgraces!

Unfortunately, since they've won the Georgia All-Star tag team title, they'll probably be around for a while. I don't know how much longer I can tolerate them, though!

MARY LOUISE  
 Alpharetta, GA

### ROAD PIES

Craig Peters had one particularly noteworthy line in his latest "On The Road" column (June 1991):

"Mondo Kleen looks so awesome just standing there, it's amazing to me that someone in the WWF or WCW hasn't raided him from the IWCCW roster yet."

That says it all about wrestling today. It doesn't matter if a guy can actually *wrestle*, all that counts is that he "looks good."

HAROLD SHAFER  
 Milwaukee

### MR. EGO

Once again, in the June 1991 edition, Eddie Ellner tells it like it is in his "Insider" column. He's as disgusted as I am about Dusty Rhodes' return to WCW. Dusty's days as a wrestler are over, so now he's going to assault

(Continued on page 54)



In wrestling today, Mondo Kleen's wrestling ability is not as important as the fact that he looks fearsome. That is reader Harold Shafer's sad assessment.

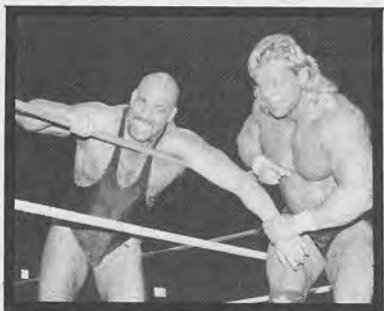


# THIS MONTH IN...

## THE Wrestler



If **SGT. SLAUGHTER** said "I'm sorry," would **HULK HOGAN** and the world forgive him?



Learn why **LEX LUGER** vs. **NIKITA KOLOFF** was the feud too hot for WCW to handle

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 52)



The Mountie (with Jimmy Hart in his corner) taunts Big Bossman. Reader Dana Alcide thinks The Mountie is on his way to championship gold.

our senses as a commentator. My poor ears!

Ellner has the guts to describe Rhodes as he really is. The rest of you are afraid to say one bad word about Dusty, or, as I call him, "Mr. Ego." It's probably the reason why Eddie is only an associate editor.

FRANK NORRIS

Dover, DE

### SOLID AS A ROCK

Arn Anderson really was the "Heartbeat Of The Horsemen" (June 1991). When other members of the group argued and bickered with each other, Arn was the one who strove to hold his teammates together. He cared about the group more than they ever did.

Some people say that Arn wasn't so loyal, because he and Tully Blanchard left the Horsemen for the WWF in 1988. But remember, after they left the WWF about a year later, Arn immediately returned to the Horsemen; Tully didn't. After that, Arn was more loyal than he'd ever been.

If the Horsemen ever do get together again, it will be because of Arn's hard work and persistence.

SCOTT BRADY

Salt Lake City

### COME OFF IT, "DOC"

"Steve Williams' Shocking Claim: 'American Wrestlers Are Wimps!'" (June 1991) has to be the biggest load

of bull I've ever heard! Where does Williams get off insulting the wrestlers of this country?

Hey, "Doc," if Americans are so easy to beat, then why aren't you a champion over here? The reason, of course, is that you're not nearly as good as you say you are! You like to brag a lot, but when it comes to getting the job done, you flop—and flop big-time!

If you become a world champion, Steve, then *maybe* your claim will have some validity. But until then, be quiet!

DOUG NELKIN

Harrisburg, PA

### MOUNTIE-MANIA

Becoming The Mountie was the most awesome career move Jacques Rougeau ever could have made. In tag team competition, he and his brother, Raymond, were okay, but they were never going to win a world tag title.

But as The Mountie, with Jimmy Hart as his manager, Jacques has set himself apart from the pack. He is on his way to an Intercontinental or World title shot. Hart is about to prove once again that he's one of the great managers of this era.

I predict that by the end of the year, The Mountie will have a title belt around his waist. That is, if he gets the chance. Hulk Hogan or Curt Hennig might be afraid to wrestle him!

DANA ALCIDE  
Farmingdale, NY ☐



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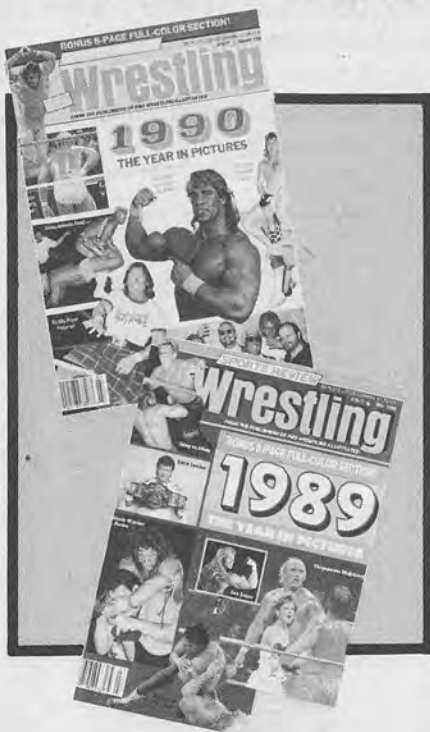
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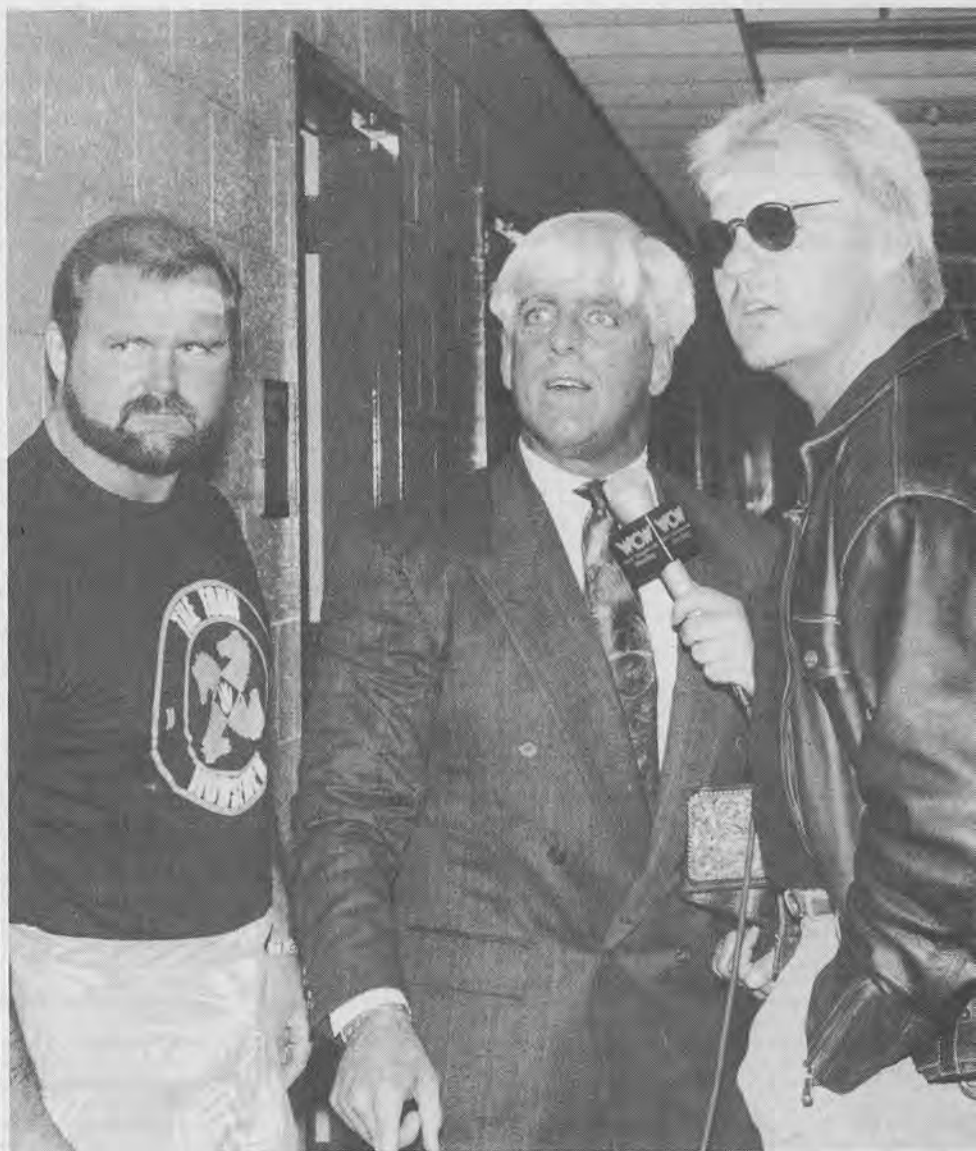
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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



WCW TV champion Arn Anderson, World champ Ric Flair, and Barry Windham may not officially be Horsemen, but they still aid each other regularly.

don't have to watch out for them, but we all know that's ridiculous. As long as these four are on the same planet, I'll be watching out for them."

Naturally, Flair denies that any of this is true.

"We're friends and we make a good team," Flair said. "Like I told Brock, we're no longer together in a business sense, and that makes everything a little less complicated. This way, we can go into the ring and wrestle and we don't have to worry about anything else."

But do Flair's opponents still

have to worry about sneak-attacks by Flair's old Horsemen buddies?

"Like I said, we're still friends, and friends look after friends," Flair said.

In other words, yes, Flair's opponents *do* have to worry about sneak-attacks. Breaking up the Horsemen benefited only the Horsemen ... nobody else.

"Which is how it should be," Arn said. "We didn't break up the Horsemen because people were worried about us. We broke up because we were worried about our own careers."

But, as Sting said, there seems



to be a question about whether the Horsemen actually broke up. Their public statement said they did. Secretly, things might be a little different.

Two years ago, the Horsemen broke up and separated. Flair stayed in WCW. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson went to the WWF. Blanchard and Anderson retained their partnership and won the WWF World tag team title. Windham had little to do with any of them.

But the ties remained. They corresponded frequently. There was no outside interference or sharing of match purses, but the mindset of the Horsemen remained.

This seems to be a different case.

"They're together *too* often," Lex Luger said. "You know, it benefits them too much to stay together, and I'm talking about from a financial sense, too. It's quite a complicated situation, but anybody who knows the Horsemen knows they're still going strong. They're just trying to hide it."

Fortunately, their enemies know this. If the Horsemen were trying to deceive the rest of WCW, they did poorly. The Horsemen have been up to so many tricks that they can no longer surprise anyone; people expect the unexpected where they're concerned.

"They'll be together for real again very soon," Sting said. "That's my prediction, but I don't really care either way. It's in WCW's hands to wipe out their interference and sneak-attacks, and they should be dealing with that whether or not they're a team."

Nobody has to say, "Watch out!" in this case. The Horsemen's latest scheme has been exposed.

It was never really covered up too well to begin with. ☐

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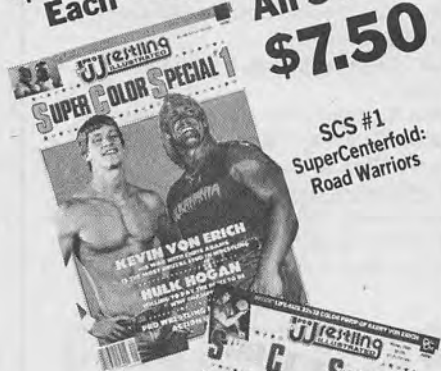
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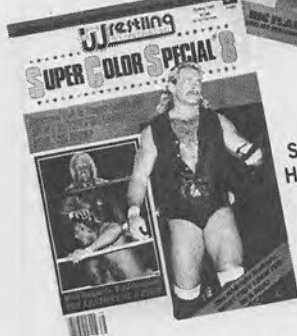
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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



New WWF color commentator "Macho King" Randy Savage in a "mumble match" with The Ultimate Warrior? Only in Ellner's flu-twisted imagination.

I still pray nightly that Vince McMahon will promote a Texas Death Mumble Match between Savage and The Ultimate Warrior. Think of the saliva being spilled, the deathly tongue-ties performed!

Forgive me, I stray. But I am ill.  
**WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE: THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR VINCE McMAHON'S WARMUP SUITS**

Sitting alongside Vince McMahon on an episode of *Prime-Time Wrestling*, the WWF's version of *MTV: Unplugged*, was The Ultimate Warrior. Sitting there, quietly mumbling away, brought to mind

the old Wolfman movies, when the transformation occurs but the monster remains in his civilian clothes.

Forgive me, I stray. But I am ill. Bobby Heenan interrogated them both, his belly ballooning out from a China Club sweater. The China Club, for those of you stuck between coasts, is a trendy New York and L.A. nightspot that hires 300-pound gun-toting bouncers to prevent people like Bobby Heenan from getting in.

What McMahon used to cover his body, though, is a matter I am too ill to analyze. It looked like he



butchered a zebra and walked into its pelt! McMahon's bad taste was immortalized in a photo accompanying the recent *Sports Illustrated* story chronicling the rise of Titan Sports. (My thought on that is this: I am sick; I feel miserable. My eyes water, my throat feels like someone took a razor blade to it. But I will recover. I've been through this before, and know it won't be long before I am back to my spry, healthy self again. Imagine if one day you got sick and *never* recovered, just remained sickly forever. That is what happened to the WWF, and to pro wrestling in general. And we must all cope and adjust to the permanent illness).

Where was I? I lost my train of thought.

#### YABBA DABBA DOO?

Want more? Bam Bam Bigelow wrestling an unnamed opponent, someone essentially his size and structure (which is to say a giant

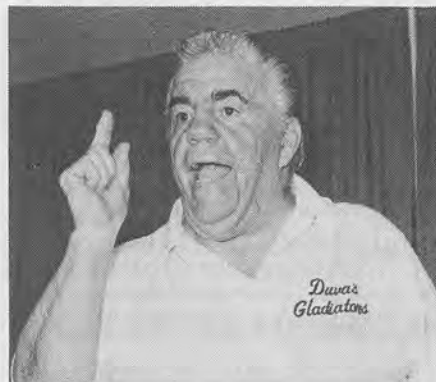
turtle: large body with tiny appendages, the smallest skull encasing the even tinier brain). I want the opponent's name, so I turn up the sound. Big mistake.

It's Lou Albano, who sounds exactly like boxing trainer, Lou Duva, who looks exactly like Barney Rubble of the *Flintstones*. I turn the channel and there is Barney Rubble. Another flick of the switch yields the George Foreman-Evander Holyfield title fight, and there is Lou Duva wiping Evander's neck between rounds. Albano. Duva. Rubble. Albano. Rubble. Duva. Rubble. Albano. I'm dizzy. I throw the remote control to the ground and the channel flips itself. Thankfully, it's an *Adams Family* rerun, the one where Thing, feeling unloved and unwanted, decides to run away. If only that option were available to me.

Forgive me, I stray. But I am ill. Forgive me. □



Capt. Lou Albano: the Lou Duva of professional wrestling. Or is Duva the Capt. Lou of boxing?



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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)



The power and muscularity of Reggie Bennett sets her apart from the female competitors of the past. Hunter, though, says all kinds of women will help the sport grow.

dependent stations nationwide. The federation has good television exposure, but they need more.

The feeling I described at the outset of this column is that something more *is* about to happen. The WWF and WCW are both expanding their promotions to include Japanese wrestlers. What better time to include women as well? I can certainly envision a situation where every WCW card and broadcast includes at least one LPWA bout.

"We sort of had that situation

not too long ago," said former LPWA champion Susan Sexton. "Frankly, I don't know why the arrangement didn't last longer. I defended my title at Clash of the Champions XII last September, and I got a lot of positive response from the fans from my appearances on TBS. I assume that the folks at WCW did as well."

I know I did. My mailbox was packed with mail following Clash XII, the vast majority of it overwhelmingly in favor of more women's wrestling on national



television.

"I think it would be great," said Misty Blue Simmes, "although I think that anyone who feels that LPWA wrestlers need exposure on WCW cards ought to think twice about that. The LPWA is a thriving, vital organization. To suggest that it couldn't be without the cooperation of WCW would be a mistake."

Indeed. But the fact remains that the WWF and WCW are indisputably the big two when it comes to wrestling in this country. An association with either of those promotions would go a long way toward improving the image of women in this sport. And I envision a WCW-LPWA association, simply because such an association existed in the past.

To the credit of my male colleagues, a lot more attention has been paid to women in recent months by this family of magazines. The August 1991 issue of *The Wrestler* has an "Introducing" feature on Debbie Malenko, for example, and the August 1991 issue of *Wrestling Superstars* includes a full-length feature on Terri Power. Maybe some smart businessmen somewhere will read those stories and sit up and take notice.

Women wrestling was big in the mid-'80s, mainly because of the excellence of Wendi Richter and the secondary involvement of Cyndi Lauper. It can be just as popular in the '90s on the basis of the excellence of the athletes in the LPWA today.

Can you sense it? There's a feeling in the air, a sensation that something big is about to happen. Close your eyes. Concentrate. Look for it. There it is. Something new, something fresh, something to kick the sport in the kidneys and get people talking.

Maybe not. Maybe my flowery prose is all just wishful thinking. I hope not. ☐

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## LAWLER

(Continued from page 28)

In the early spring, Lawler relented and announced he was going to take an extended vacation.

"I'm tired and I'm sore," said Lawler on the April 6 telecast of *Championship Wrestling* in Memphis. "I'm going to go relax on the beach. See you later." With that, Lawler grabbed his crown and walked off the set.

But he didn't stay away for long. Later on the telecast, Eric Embry and Tom Prichard, who have run rampant throughout the USWA for months, engaged in yet another mugging. Young Bill Rush was the victim of a savage Embry piledriver from the second rope. Jarrett, Eddie Gilbert, and Lawler rushed to Rush's aid.

Guess which one challenged Embry to a match?

"I can't allow this garbage to go on," said an appalled Lawler following the brutality. "Embry and Prichard are all that's on my mind these days. How can I leave the USWA knowing these creeps are still around? To hell with the vacation. Give me Embry and Prichard."

Since then, Lawler has battled both rulebreakers in bloody, violent title defenses, and his injuries have gotten that much worse. Bill Dundee insists he saw Lawler leaving the Sportatorium in Dallas sporting a neck brace.

"I don't understand Jerry's motivations," said Dundee with concern. "Sure, Embry and Prichard have to be run out of here, but other people—like myself, Eddie Gilbert, and even Robert Fuller—are more than capable of getting the job done. Jerry should take off and leave the wrestling to us."

Lawler gained a measure of satisfaction by beating Embry for the Texas title in a brutal steel cage match on April 26 in Dallas, but after the bout Lawler could barely



Despite his pain, Lawler insists he can't take time off until he runs Prichard and company out of the USWA for good.

walk back to the dressing room on his own power. When he reached his locker, he walked to a trainer's bench, lay down on his stomach, and did not move for more than 45 minutes. He was hurting too badly to even grant interviews about his victory.

Lawler must begin to take the pain that wracks his body seriously. His doctors are warning him. His friends are pleading with him. Even his fans are concerned about him. And inside, he knows he can't ignore the warning signals any longer.

"Can't quit," said Lawler through clenched teeth. "There's too much work to do here. I don't ever want to let my fans down."

"Forget about us," pleaded Betty Verna, a Memphis fan who has supported Lawler for two decades. "Jerry, you've done everything we've asked you to do for years. Now, we're begging you: Take a break!"

Perhaps you should listen up, Jerry, before your body breaks down—for the final time. □



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Oct 1984  | <input type="checkbox"/> Aug 1987  | <input type="checkbox"/> Apr 1990  |                                    |
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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>(1) WWF World champion | 4— <b>TATSUMI FUJINAMI</b><br>(5) No. 2 contender: WCW title | 8— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>(10) No. 2 contender: WWF title   | 12— <b>ARN ANDERSON</b><br>(9) WCW TV champion               |
| 2— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>(2) WCW World champion  | 5— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>(6) WWF I-C champion                | 9— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>(12) USWA & Texas champion          | 13— <b>STEVE DOLL</b><br>(13) PNW champion                   |
| 3— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>(3) WCW U.S. champion   | 6— <b>STING</b><br>(4) No. 3 contender: WCW title            | 10— <b>EL GIGANTE</b><br>(14) No. 5 contender: WCW title      | 14— <b>BOBBY EATON</b><br>(15) No. 1 contender: WCW TV title |
|  | 7— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>(-) No. 1 contender: U.S. title   | 11— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>(7) No. 3 contender: WWF title | 15— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>(-) USWA Southern champion        |

## WCW

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 1— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>(1) 243, Minneapolis, MN     | 4— <b>STING</b><br>(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA        | 8— <b>ARN ANDERSON</b><br>(7) 249, Minneapolis, MN   | 12— <b>BRAD ARMSTRONG</b><br>(-) 226, Marietta, GA   |
| 2— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>(2) 268, Chicago, IL         | 5— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>(10) 275, Moscow, Russia | 9— <b>BOBBY EATON</b><br>(8) 233, Huntsville, AL     | 13— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>(15) 263, Sweetwater, TX |
| 3— <b>TATSUMI FUJINAMI</b><br>(4) 231, Tokyo, Japan | 6— <b>EL GIGANTE</b><br>(5) 435, Argentina          | 10— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>(9) 225, Vero Beach, FL   | 14— <b>ONE MAN GANG</b><br>(-) 468, Chicago, IL      |
|   | 7— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>(11) 260, Perry, GA        | 11— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>(12) 248, Pittsburgh, PA | 15— <b>SID VICIOUS</b><br>(6) 318, West Memphis, AR  |

## WWF

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>(1) 302, Venice Beach, CA      | 4— <b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>(3) 280, Queens, NY | 8— <b>BIG BOSSMAN</b><br>(6) 310, Cobb County, GA     | 12— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>(9) 246, Stone Mountain, GA |
| 2— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>(2) 235, Minneapolis, MN      | 5— <b>THE UNDERTAKER</b><br>(7) 320, Dallas, TX       | 9— <b>IRWIN R. SHYSTER</b><br>(-) 245, Syracuse, NY   | 13— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>(13) 247, Omaha, NB          |
| 3— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>(5) 310, Parris Island, SC | 6— <b>BRET HART</b><br>(-) 235, Calgary, Alberta      | 10— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>(-) 280, Glens Falls, NY | 14— <b>COL. MUSTAFA</b><br>(-) 262, Teheran, Iran      |
|  | 7— <b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b><br>(10) 245, Leeds, England | 11— <b>EARTHQUAKE</b><br>(-) 462, Montreal, Quebec    | 15— <b>GREG VALENTINE</b><br>(11) 243, Seattle, WA     |

## MOST POPULAR

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— <b>EL GIGANTE</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Popular           | 8— <b>SCOTT STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 12— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>Last month: No. 14 Most Popular  |
| 2— <b>STING</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Popular      | 5— <b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 9— <b>RODDY PIPER</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Popular  | 13— <b>EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>Last month: unrated            |
| 3— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Popular  | 6— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Popular         | 10— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Popular | 14— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Popular |
|  | 7— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Popular        | 11— <b>VIRGIL</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Popular      | 15— <b>PAUL ORNDORFF</b><br>Last month: unrated            |

## MOST HATED

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>THE UNDERTAKER</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 4— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 8— <b>ARN ANDERSON</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Hated  | 12— <b>TERRY TAYLOR</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Hated |
| 2— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Hated      | 5— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Hated  | 9— <b>IRWIN R. SHYSTER</b><br>Last month: unrated       | 13— <b>ONE MAN GANG</b><br>Last month: unrated           |
| 3— <b>EARTHQUAKE</b><br>Last month: unrated              | 6— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Hated    | 10— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>Last month: unrated         | 14— <b>TOM PRICHARD</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
|  | 7— <b>ERIC EMBRY</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Hated     | 11— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Hated | 15— <b>BUTCH REED</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Hated   |

## TAG TEAMS

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER</b><br>(1) WCW World & IWGP tag team champions | 6— <b>THE ROCKERS</b><br>(8) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title                     | 11— <b>ARN ANDERSON &amp; BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>(12) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title |
| 2— <b>THE NASTY BOYS</b><br>(2) WWF World tag team champions                  | 7— <b>THE TEXAS HANGMEN</b><br>(7) USWA tag team champions                       | 12— <b>THE ORIENT EXPRESS</b><br>(15) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title               |
| 3— <b>THE LEGION OF DOOM</b><br>(3) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title           | 8— <b>THE BRUISE BROTHERS</b><br>(-) No. 1 contenders: PNW tag title             | 13— <b>STING &amp; LEX LUGER</b><br>(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW tag title             |
| 4— <b>THE YOUNG PISTOLS</b><br>(4) No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag title           | 9— <b>THE BUSHWHACKERS</b><br>(-) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title                | 14— <b>POWER &amp; GLORY</b><br>(11) No. 5 contenders: WWF tag title                |
| 5— <b>THE FREEBIRDS</b><br>(4) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title                | 10— <b>STEVE KEIRN &amp; BILL DUNDEE</b><br>(-) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title | 15— <b>THE GEORGIA GUERRILLAS</b><br>(-) IWCCW tag team champions                   |



These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-loses records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended May 3, 1991

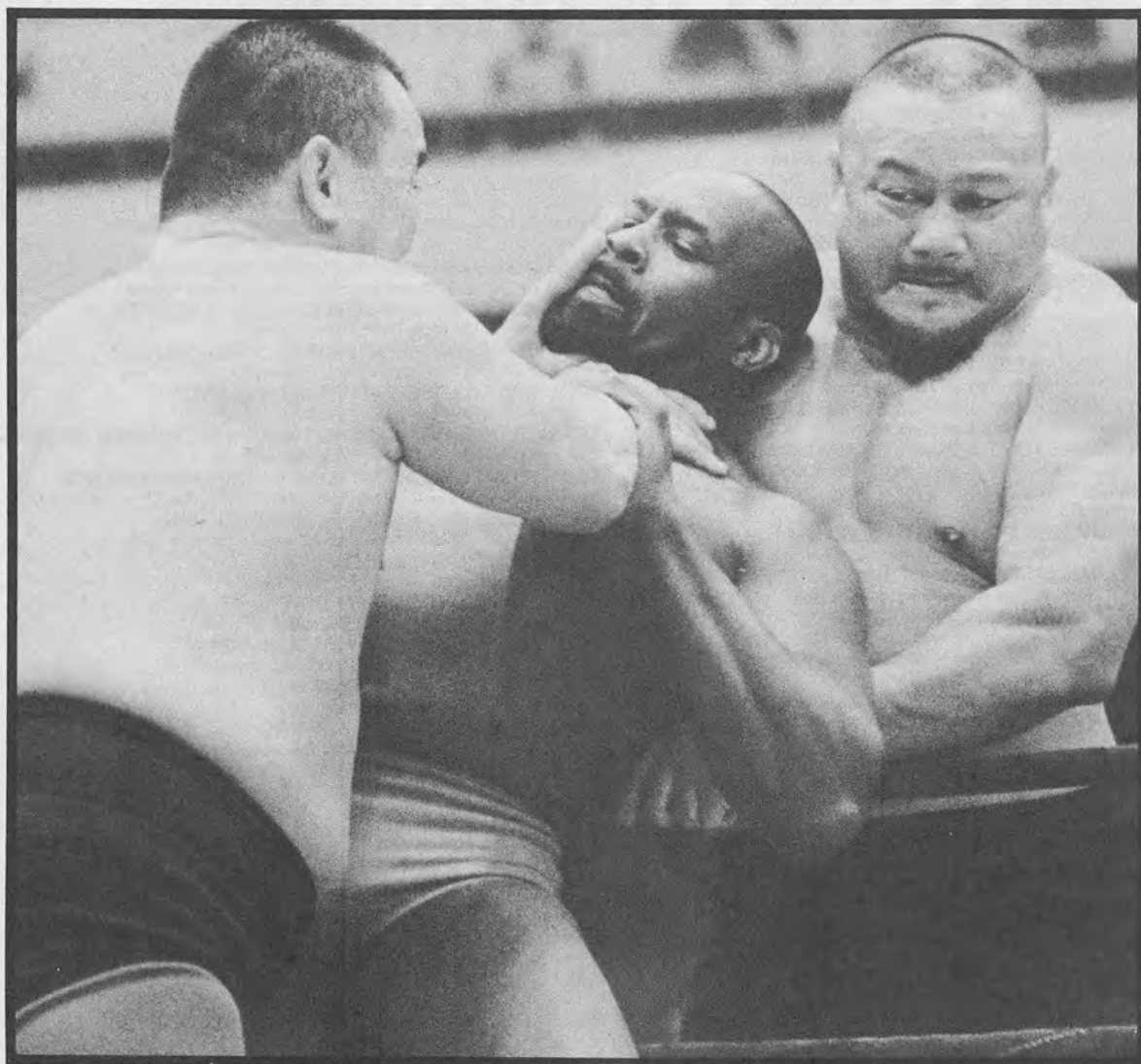
# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- \* **ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS**  
(April 20, 1991; from Dynamite Kid & Johnny Smith; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**  
(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIVEY**  
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE**  
(October 2, 1990; for vacant title over Takako Inoue; Yamagata, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO**  
(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUZUKA MINAMI**  
(March 17, 1991; from Minami Toyoda; Tokyo, Japan)
- \* **ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AJA KONG & BISON KIMURA**  
(April 4, 1991; over Yumiko Hotta & Akira Hokuto for vacant title; Sendai, Japan)
- AWA CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Larry Zbyszko)
- AWA LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUCK ZUMHOFF**  
(August 12, 1990; tournament final over Jonnie Stewart; Rochester, MN)
- AWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TROOPER & D.J. PETERSON**  
(August 11, 1990; from The Destruction Crew; Rochester, MN)
- AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE**  
(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)
- CANADIAN NATIONAL WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RON RITCHIE**  
(December 14, 1990; from Jerry Morrow; Calgary, Alberta)
- CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER**  
(December 22, 1990; tournament final over Rambo; Bremen, Germany)
- \* **GEORGIA ALL-STAR CHAMPION: JOEL DEATON**  
(April 21, 1991; from Steve Lawler; Canton, GA)
- \* **ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**  
(April 19, 1991; from Vic Steamboat; S. China, ME)
- IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ**  
(December 5, 1990; tournament final over Cousin Luke; Washington Township, NJ)
- IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SONNY BEACH & THE TERMINATOR**  
(August 27, 1990; from The Motor City Madmen; Atlantic City, NJ)
- IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE**  
(October 5, 1990; tournament final over Cactus Jack; Girard, OH)
- IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI**  
(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)
- \* **IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE GEORGIA GUERRILLAS**  
(April 19, 1991; from the Madison Brothers; South China, ME)
- IWCCW WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**  
(by official's decision)
- IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI**  
(March 4, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Hiroshima, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
(March 21, 1991; from Hiroshi Hase & Kensuke Sasaki; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN RIGER**  
(November 2, 1990; from The Pegasus Kid; Tokyo, Japan)
- LPWA CHAMPION: LADY X**  
(January 31, 1991; from Susan Sexton; Laughlin, NV)
- LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI**  
(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: STEVE DOLL**  
(November 10, 1990; from The Grappler; Portland, OR)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Ricky Santana & Brad Anderson)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Scotty the Body)
- PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**  
(January 19, 1991; from Stan Hansen; Matsumoto, Japan)
- \* **PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & DAN SPIVEY**  
(April 18, 1991; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)
- PRO WRESTLING AMERICA CHAMPION: TERMINATOR RIGGS**  
(February 11, 1991; from The Charlie Norris; Fridley, MN)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VINCE TORELLI**  
(February 7, 1991; tournament final over Chris Chavis; Nassau, Bahamas)
- SOUTH ATLANTIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON**  
(December 29, 1990; from The Pit Bulldogs; Greenville, SC)
- TEXAS ALL-PRO HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TUGBOAT TAYLOR**  
(January 18, 1991; from Tiger Conway Jr.; Conroe, TX)
- TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: AL PEREZ**  
(February 21, 1991; from Matt Borne; Dallas, TX)
- TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHAUN SIMPSON**  
(February 10, 1991; by forfeit from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)
- TEXAS WRESTLING FEDERATION TEXAS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**  
(February 3, 1991; tournament match over Angel of Death; Dallas, TX)
- TRI-STATE WRESTLING ALLIANCE CHAMPION: D.C. DRAKE**  
(September 15, 1990; tournament final over Rockin' Rebel; Philadelphia, PA)
- USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**  
(March 11, 1991; from Terry Funk; Memphis, TN)
- \* **USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT**  
(April 12, 1991; from Tom Prichard; Dallas, TX)
- USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE TEXAS HANGMEN**  
(March 26, 1991; from Jeff Jarrett & Jerry Lawler; Louisville, KY)
- \* **USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**  
(April 26, 1991; from Eric Embry; Dallas, TX)
- UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK**  
(December 9, 1990; from Big Van Vader; Mexico City, Mexico)
- UWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAZO DE ORO & BRAZO DE PLATA**  
(March 10, 1991; tournament final over Gran Hamada & Perro Aguayo; Tokyo, Japan)
- WCW U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER**  
(December 16, 1990; from Stan Hansen; St. Louis, MO)
- WCW U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Rick & Scott Steiner)
- WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**  
(January 11, 1991; from Sting; East Rutherford, NJ)
- WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
(March 9, 1991; from The Freebirds; Montgomery, AL)
- \* **WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC III**  
(April 20, 1991; from Scott Hall; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)
- WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HURRICANE CASTILLO JR. & MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**  
(March 16, 1991; from Galan Mendoza & Rick Valentine; Carolina, Puerto Rico)
- \* **WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA**  
(April 20, 1991; for held-up title against Mr. Pogo; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**  
(most recently held by Manny Fernandez)
- WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & EL BRONCO I**  
(March 2, 1991; from The Texas Hangmen; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**  
(February 2, 1991; for held-up title over Greg Valentine; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)
- WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MONSTER RIPPER**  
(March 16, 1991; from Sasha; Carolina, Puerto Rico)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: CURT HENNIG**  
(November 19, 1990; from Kerry Von Erich; Rochester, NY)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**  
(March 24, 1991; from Sgt. Slaughter; Los Angeles, CA)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS**  
(March 24, 1991; from Bret Hart & Jim Neidhart; Los Angeles, CA)

# ***Blast From The Past***

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Mr. Fuji sadistically chokes Sonny King as Prof. Tanaka holds “Mr. Showboat” from behind during this WWF World tag team title match in Philadelphia pitting King and Chief Jay Strongbow against Tanaka and Fuji. The Grand Wizard-managed Japanese team hurled salt in King’s eyes, which led to an illegal pinfall and their first title. Tanaka and Fuji went on to capture the WWF tag title twice more in 1973 and 1977 (then managed by Fred Blassie), establishing the all-time record for the number of times having held the championship (later tied by The Samoans and Demolition).



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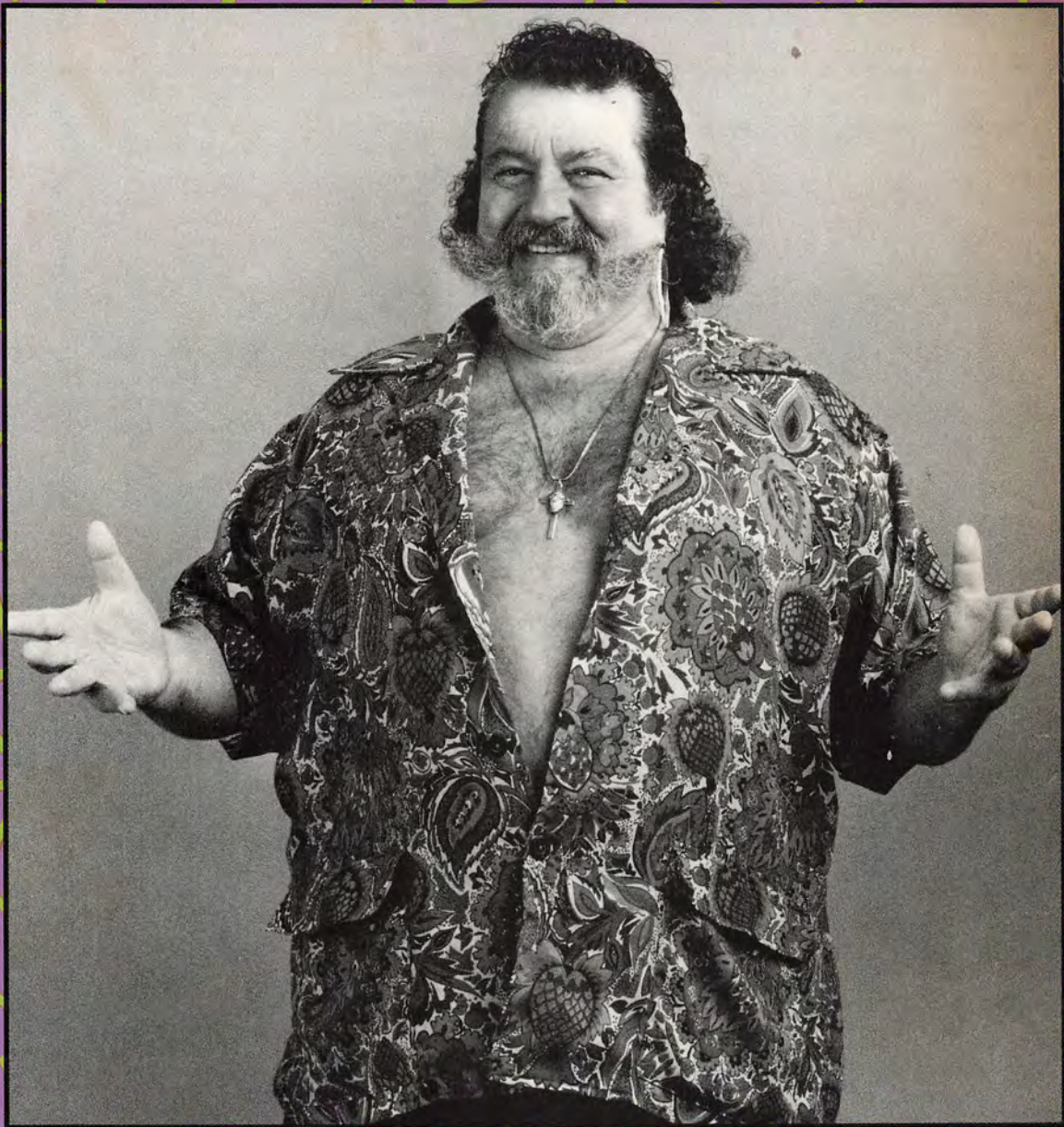
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